THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8
MOFUSSIL.....13-4

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 11TH DECEMBER.

IN JUSTICE to the Theosophical Society we are requested to give the following statement from the last number of the *Theosophist* :

A Warning to Brother Theosophists.

I was initiated as a member of the Bengal Theosophical Society in April last. Since then I have been coming more and more to appreciate the majesty of the Occult Sciences of the Ancient Sages, by reading your valuable journal and various books. After the departure of the Founders from Calcutta, I was persuaded by some of the disciples of a person who professes to be master in Bhaktiyoga, to [illegible] taught its mysteries. I was initiated as his disciple after a [illegible] days, though I objected to become one so soon, because I thought myself disqualified for it. But as I was under his spell as it were for the time being, I could not much gainsay him. In this way he worked upon my sincerity and good faith and I commenced to practise Bhaktiyoga and pranayam. I continued this process for about three weeks, when I began to lose faith in him, for his being unable to answer some of my questions and for some other reasons. During the latter portion of my training under him, I felt some pains in the lungs and heart, and the action of the latter organ was much accelerated. I therefore left off practising the austerities, But the evil had been done already. *After about six weeks. I had hemorrhage from the lungs which considerably frightened me, and confined me to bed for twenty days.* I make the above statement because a rumour has got abroad that my hemorrhage has something to do with my connection with the Theosophical Society. Though I dislike notoriety I must, in justice, publicly confess, once for all, that neither the Theosophical Society nor its *Founders ever advised me* to practise Bhaktiyoga; *on the contray* I remember that Colonel Olcott, positively, and, if I mistake not, Mme. Blavatsky also, warned me against it; the former pointing out to me a mutual Bengali friend who was killing himself by the same system. Moreover, a number of the members of our Society were also warned not to attempt Hathayoga as it was unsafe for adults to begin it.

It must also be said that my temporary Guru had no connection whatever with our Theosophical movement.

BALAI [illegible] MULLICK.

21st November, 1882.

The editor makes the following remarks upon the a bove :

BabuBalai Chund Mullik, Assistant Secretary of the Bengal Thesophical Society, is convalescent from an attack of hemorrhage from the lungs, induced by an illadvised attempt to practise certain austerities prescribed in Bhaktiyoga. Our worthy and much esteemed young brother, who is not of a very robust constitution, as it would seem, was advised against this attempt by the Founders of the Society, whom he consulted while they were at Calcutta. His wish to acquire spiritual wisdom was however too ardent for restraint, and he made the venture which has turned out so badly. An additional reason for regret that it should have been attempted, is found in the fact that some ultra orthodox Bengalis who are opposed to our Society, have cited this case as a warning against joining us; whereas from the first the Founders have always warned the public against the dangerous practice of Hatha-Yoga in all its forms, while the advocates of that system have invariably been the orthodox themselves! Other esteemed members who are likewise occupied with the same austerities, despite our most earnest protests, are running a similar risk. Hatha-Yoga if begun later than the tenth year of life, is at best a perilous experiment; even for such as are of sound body and mind.

We have a letter from Balai Babu expressing his regrets; but the harm was done already.

However we may differ from the Theosophical Society we cannot approve of the policy of those who traduce the Society on the principle—give a dog a bad name and then hang it. Why should not people differ as honest men and gentlemen?

ACCORDING to the *Pioneer* the railway which is to link Rajpootana with the Punjab, and thereby afford an outlet to the sea for some of the finest grain-growing districts in India, has at last been sanctioned for its entire length, Mr. R. S. Mallet, C. E., being the Engineer-in-Chief. Commencing at Rewari, a station 51 miles from Delhi, on the Rajpootana-Malwa line, it will run *via* Bhiwani, Hansi, Hissar, Sirsa, Batinda and Faridkot, to Ferozepore, with a branch from Faridkot to Fazilka on the left bank of the Sutlej.

THE SAME PAPER draws attention to the extravagance, which characterizes the management of the London School Boards. For example, the Solicitor to the Board receives a salary of £2,000 a year, and in addition received last year no less than £9,000 as commission money on the purchase of school sites. The fees bring in £90,000 per annum, but the cost of collecting them amounts to more than £31,000. Happily such scandals are rare in India.

THE REVENUE collected by the Government of Bengal from the Khoyra district having been steadily upon the decrease for some time past, recent enquiry has shown that many of the wood-cutters and wood collectors are abandoning the neighbourhood of the place. This desertion of Khoyra is owing to the tigers which infest the jungles on the islands. In the Khoyra district, which comprises a considerable portion of the Sunderbunds, more than fifty unfortunate people—timber-cutting and collecting in the jungle—were killed by tigers during the last official year. A trophy of the Arms Act!

MEETINGS were held at Arrah on the evenings of the 6th and 7th instant at the instance of representatives of the Bengali and Behari communities respectively. Congratulatory addresses were presented to the Hon'ble Hurbans Sahai on his appointment to the Bengal Council.

TUESDAY, 12TH DECEMBER.

THE VARTMAN SAR, published at Surat, is responsible for the following:—"On the troops in attendance on the Gaekwar reaching Ahmedabad, Mr. Shepherd, the Revenue Commissioner, N. D., issued an order for their withdrawal from the city within twenty-four hours on the plea of public health. Again, another hint was thrown out that the Gaekwar should not pass through the city on an elephant. We are sure this has been done without the knowledge of the Bombay Government, who should take some notice of the affairs." Is all this true? We hope the Bombay Government will make an enquiry into the matter.

RUSSIA is removing her naval station on the Caspian from Ashurade to the River Karasu, whence it is only a short distance to Astrabad. This movement naturally causes alarm to the Persians.

THE TIMES thus welcomes the Indian soldiers to England:

We have now in our City the chosen representatives of the Indian Contingent which served with the Imperial troops in Egypt and every preparation has been made to ensure their comfort and to contribute to their pleasure during their stay in our northern clime. The selection of these officers, non-commissioned officers, and men has been made, we have no doubt, with all due care, and our visitors will be as representative as they can be of that native army which, under British leading, has played its part in every field of battle from Plassey to Candahar, and which has enabled English authority to be set up and maintained in the States of Hindostan. One race, perhaps the bravest and most faithful of them all, will indeed be conspicuous by its absence, as none of them took part in the Egyptian expedition; but a temporary absence is not likely to make us forget the long and faithful service rendered in our interests by the Goorkhas of Nepaul. There will be representatives of many brave races and once famous peoples in this small band of warriors, who differ from one another almost as much in language and religion as they do in the stock from which they spring. Their distinctions are typical, not only of Indian society, but also of the force which they have been chosen on this occasion to represent, for even a single regiment often has in its ranks, Mahomedan and Hindoos, Sikhs and Pathans, naturally antagonistic, but held together by the strong bands of discipline and by a common devotion to the Queen-Empress.

IT IS STATED that the Patna-Gya State Railway is to be made over to the East Indian Railway, and that some of the employes of the former are likely to be thrown out of employment. We hope they will be provided for elsewhere.

THE STATESMAN has received the following telegram from Rangoon: "Another dacoity within Rangoon town occurred last night. About Rs. 350 worth of property was *looted* from the house of a bronze-worker at Poozoondoung. The dacoits were fired upon by the police, but as they carried off the women for a portion of their retreat, who begged the police not to fire, the dacoits managed to escape." Appoint a Dacoity Commission in British Burmah such as we had in Bengal when dacoity was rampant here.

A SINGULAR fact has come out in regard to the income-tax returns in Ireland. They have just been made up, and the result shews the extraordinary fact that the arrears are less than usual; in fact, practically no arrears exist. Payment to the Government, it would seem, is regarded in Ireland more a duty than payment to the private landlord. What has worked this feeling in the Irish? Will Mr. Parnell answer this question!

THE FOLLOWING paragraph is going the round of the papers:

The American Government has at last taken in hand the ungracious task of auditing the expenses of General Garfield's illness, and the physicians have presented their accounts. Dr. Bliss and Dr. Hamilton claim each 25,000 dols., while Dr. Agnew estimates the value of his services at the more modest sum of 14,700 dols. The fourth doctor has not yet sent in his bill. Unfortunately, Congress allotted only 35,000 dols. in all as fees for the physicians, and no one seems to know very clearly how the unexpectedly high charges of the leeches are to be met. The question is complicated by the growing conviction that their blunders really caused the President's death. Professor Esmarch, the eminent surgeon, declares that the wound was not necessarily mortal, and that the suppuration which caused death was produced by repeated probing. "Had no search been made for the ball, and had the wound been properly dressed so as to exclude germs, the President,' he asserts, "would be alive to-day." The medical attendants have, indeed, themselves confessed to extraordinary blunders in their diagnosis. Whatever the Audit Committee may decide, the outside public are certainly of opinion that as the doctors have shown no delicacy in preparing the bills, the State should have no delicacy in scrutinising them.

So popular Government does not necessarily promote professional virtues.

WEDNESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER.

THE INDIAN WITNESS has the following on Archdeacon Baly:

The Venerable Archdeacon Baly has preached, and the *Englishman* has printed, a sermon on, or rather against, the Salvation Army. The Archdeacon has never seen or heard the Army people, but nevertheless proceeds to denounce them as "coarse, vulgar, irreverent, profane, and blasphemous." His conscience will not permit him "to undertake this dirty work of the Church." It is all wrong, and is all to end speedily in disaster and we know not what all. If our Venerable Archdeacon and those for whom he speaks were a little less reluctant to do the really "dirty work" of his calling, there would be less necessity, and less excuse, for such a movement as the Salvation Army. He has been in India for many years and has had every possible opportunity for showing us a more excellent way, but no vice has ever trembled before him or his army, and no iniquity has ever paid the slightest attention to his going or coming. If the vulgar people who can and do fight successfully against vice are to be put to silence pray what polite people are ready to do their work?

THE SAME PAPER makes the following comments on St. Andrew's Dinner in Calcutta:

We like the observance of these national festivals, specially in strange lands, and have no word of criticism to offer on anything contained in the published reports of the meeting, but we think the time has fully come to remonstrate against the *unpublished* part of the proceedings. For the honor of the Scottish name the managers should see to it that an evening devoted to the memory of St. Andrew should not be followed by an early morning given up to Bacchus. If the departure of the Chairman were made a signal for all the guests to leave the hall, occurrences which are regarded in Flag Street as disgraceful would be prevented.

But our contemporary is welcome to publish "the *unpublished* part of the proceedings."

THE REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE, Gambetta's organ, has the following:

"At the meeting of the 25th Sept. last, the Lodge *Union and Perseverance* of Paris resolved unanimously to invite Brother Bradlaugh, Member of the English Parliament, expelled from the House of Commons, because of his refusal to take the religious oath, to be honorary Member of the Lodge. Brother Fontainas, Venerable of the Lodge, says, that he went over to England, with recommendatory letters from Brothers Yoes Guyot and Dreyfres, to present the unanimous resolution of Lodge Union and Preseverance, and had the most gracious reception.

Birds of the same feather flock together.

A LONDON CONTEMPORARY says: "The Review by the Queen of the troops returned from Egypt was a complete success from first to last. Her Majesty, as Sir Garnet Wolseley passed, with unusual graciousness rose in her carriage and stood erect to acknowledge his salute. There was also an especial mark of Royal approval as the Duke of Connaught passed at the head of the Guards. The scene in the streets baffles description. The crowd was almost countless, and it is generally acknowledged that the show was unprecedented in the annals of metropolitan display. The honours of the day, however, were really for the Indian contingent, who, at the march past, were cheered to the echo. The whole of the select public in the enclosure rose *en masse* to applaud. Everywhere their reception has been most enthusiastic." This is very gratifying.

THE DISESTABLISHMENT of the Church of England is said to be Mr. Gladstone's next trump card. Will nothing be done for the disestablishment of the

Indian Church? We believe Mr. T. C. Hope has directed his attention to this important subject.

THE SALT REVENUE returns show that for the seven months from the beginning of the present financial year, when the reduced tax came into operation, to the end of October there was an increase of consumption, as compared with the same period of last year, of 567,000 maunds, or 3½ per cent., while there is a falling off in the amount of duty paid, of Rs. 78,55,000, or 20 per cent. What a wanton sacrifice of revenue!

THURSDAY, 14TH DECEMBER.

THE HON'BLE MR. ASHBURNER, member of the Bombay Council, who is about to retire, is reported to have said at a musical entertainment given in his honor that "he considered this country to be his *Futtun* (native land), in which he had spent the best years of his life and that after arranging for the education of his children at home, he intended to return and renew his friendship with them." If other English pilgrims who come to India will settle in it, a community of interests will grow up between the Europeans and Indians, which will ultimately tend to the good of the country.

FOR SOME weeks past the *Loke Mitra* of Bombay has added English columns to its body. The experiment has proved a decided success.

THE PIONEER has the following:

The new occupant of the Greek Chair in Edinburgh University, Professor Butcher, has had an unpleasant introduction to his intended disciples. On November 9th Lord Rosebery as Rector, delivered his opening address, and he did not fail to make the most of the now somewhat well-worn subject of patriotism. Previous to its delivery there was a scene of unusual disorder and tumultuousness among the students in the Synod Hall. There was throwing of peas and beans, shouting, stumping and singing, now snatches of songs, and again the verses of a hymn or psalm. The galleries were hung with theatrical bills and notices, and the usual trumpet and cows-horn were not conspicuous by their absence. At first the new Greek Professor was loudly cheered. A lane in the crowd was opened for him; but once in the centre of the hall, a voice was heard—"Lets' give him a squeeze." A disgraceful scene ensued. The unhappy Professor was hustled, squeezed without mercy against the railings of the hall monuments, pelted with peas, his hat knocked off, and his coat torn; and it was with much difficulty he was finally rescued.

The *Pi* thus remarks on the above:

Most of us remember somewhat similar university scenes in other portions of the United Kingdom, but this narrative tells very much to the discredit of Scotch under-graduate courtesy. The new Professor is hardly likely to enter on his duties with an overzeal arising out of predilection for the pupils in his academy.

We should like to know whether the students have been expelled *en masse* for this gross outrage. Compare the Edinbro' students with the poor students of the Shibpore Engineering College, who were hauled over the coals for a very—very much less offence. The truth is in the United Kingdom boyish freaks are not magnified into criminal or political offences.

BABU SURENDRANATH PAL CHOWDRY, the worthy representative of the well known Pal Chowdry family of Ranaghat, has offered to award in commemoration of the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Krishnaghur, a silver medal of the value of Rs. 50 to the student of the Krishnaghur College, who may stand first at the next B. A Examination. The Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to accept the offer and to express his thanks to Babu Surendranath Pal Chowdry "for his liberality and public spirit."

WE HAVE received some copies of a new paper entitled the *Punjab Herald* issued from Lahore. It is fairly written. We wish it success.

THE INDO-EUROPEAN correspondence has the following:

Our readers are aware that, in despite of the protestation of the leading Doctors in Paris, the Republican Administrative Council of Hospitals had turned out the Sisters and put in lay nurses. Typhus came and the lay nurses were nowhere, The Doctors claimed back the Sisters. What did our zealous Republicans do? They began by enquiring indirectly whether the Sisters would resume their functions, and as the good Sisters showed themselves most willing, our worthies published out that they would glady accept the offer made by the Sisters provided the latter put on a *lay dress!*—Where but in a French Republic can such narrowmindedness be found? The Sisters complied, they took it as an additional mortification, which will only add to their crown.

Surely the liberty of conscience ought to be the corner-stone of the liberty of the subject.

FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER.

WE HAVE received the first number of a Vernacular paper entitled the *Prem Pracharani*. It is the organ of the *Vishnavas*. So our religious sects are recognizing the power of the press.

MR. RUGHUNATH KHOTE has been appointed Sheriff of Bombay.

WE HAVE received two addresses of the Howrah People's Association, one to the Viceroy, and the other to the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of local self-government. We have also received a copy of the reply of the Private Secretary to the Viceroy. The addresses do credit to the Association.

FOR THE sake of fair play we give the following letter from a correspondent anent the Khurdah affair, which we noticed the other day:

It is not at all true that the Khurdah Ghaut has been erected by one Ram Chunder Paul of Calcutta at a considerable outlay for the use of the friends and relatives of the donor to it, as a matter of fact it has been dedicated to charitable uses by a letter dated the 19th of November 1877 to the Chairman of the Barackpore Municipality. On the night of the occurrence Omesh Chunder Paul had no children or female members of his house with him or they were turned out of the room to accommodate a dying constable. The Sub-Inspector at the advice of the medical officer removed the constable to the room where there was only a piece of blanket, and a pillow belonging to the Durwan. The Sub-Inspector never used any abusive language towards Omesh Chunder or threatened to break open the door. Had not the Sub-Inspector been so prompt in removing the constable he was sure to have died. Babu Ram Chunder Paul is extremely thin-skinned in complaining of it to the District Superintendent of Police. Mr. Editor, I hope that your sense of justice will lead you to publish this letter and thereby disabuse the mind of the public about this unfortunate occurrence.

We understand that the Inspector General of Police has ordered an enquiry. If the enquiry be not made in a hole and corner way the whole truth is sure to be elicited.

WE HAVE received an account of the annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of Mr. Vallis' School in this city. This is an unpretending institution maintained for the benefit of Eurasian children. It teaches up to the Entrance standard. Mr. Vallis is an old and experienced teacher, and devotes heart and soul to his work.

AN ASSAM CORRESPONDENT writes:

The High Court of Calcutta in its circulars uses terms to denote Head Ministerial officers of Judge's and Magistrate's Courts, which often lead to misunderstanding here in Assam, where the same officer performs judicial and magisterial duties and have but one office. The Head Ministerial officer in a District Judge's Court in Bengal is styled a "sheristadar" and in a Magistrate's Court, Head Clerk or sheristadar. When the High Court desire that any work in the office should be done by either of these officers, they use the terms Sheristadar or Head Clerk as the case may be. This misled some of our district officers, for in Assam both these officer are held by the same men who are called "Judicial Superintendents,"—there being only one officer and the district officer exercises both Civil and Criminal powers. In the district offices, of Assam all ministerial offices are called "clerks" who have the work of the officer distributed among them, some doing civil work and some doing criminal work. Some officials take a pride in calling the civil clerk "sheristadar" and the criminal clerk "Head Clerk and Sheristadar." When the High Court in their circular of 1st January 1880 and 19th July 1881 enjoin that Sheristadars should be appointed Commissioners to administer oaths on affidavits they were the Head Ministerial officers of the Judge's Court. In the circular Code p. 287 the High Court lays down that when the Judge is under pressure of work he may remit to his Sheristedar the duty of examining Registers kept by copyists, they also mean the Head Ministerial officers. In Assam a different interpretation is given. To guard against misinterpretation in all such cases the words "Head Ministerial officer" might be used.

A SANTIPORE CORRESPONDENT writes:

Malarious fever is committing terrible ravages in this town and its vicinage. Its further continuance will it is feared depopulate this part of the country. The district officer takes no heed of the sufferings of the people nor provide means for their relief. There are some half a dozen medical graduates some native doctors and Hindu physicians who are practising here, but the people cannot afford to pay the doctor's fees and for medicines. The graduates are obliged to content themselves charging 6 annas for conveyance, and they supply medicine *gratis*. Now the great want is medicine. The charitable dispensary here is ill-supplied and the private stock of the practitioners is most insufficient. Cannot the Government sanction the establishment of a medical depot here for the sale of medicines at cost price?

Mr. Edgar, the Presidency Commissioner, is about to visit Santipore. If the people have any grievances, they should represent them to him.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL has fixed Diamond Harbour to be a place from which native passenger-ships shall proceed on voyages, or at which they shall discharge passengers.

IN THE "WEEK" in our last there was a misprint in a para anent the *Englishman's* comments on the use of the lash in the jail. Read "faint" for "joint."

SATURDAY, 16TH DECEMBER.

WE THANK Mr. Erasmas Jones for a copy of his Sheet Almanac for 1883. It gives within a small compass much useful information.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR presided at the last annual examination of St. Xavier's College and delivered a good-humoured address to the students. Among other things His Honor said: "My own recollection of school-time takes me back to days (now more than thirty years gone), when I am afraid we loved our teachers neither wisely nor too well." No! no! We cannot believe this.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE presided at the distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Jewish School. In his address his Lordship justly complimented the leading members of the Jewish community on their public benefactions without distinction of race, color or creed.

MR. ROBERT MILLER, the newly appointed Sheriff, has been appointed an Additional Member of the Governor-General's Council for making laws and regulations.

WE ARE exceedingly glad to learn that the Viceroy has given a donation of Rs. 2,500 toward the general endowment fund which is being collected for the purpose of establishing the Agra College on a new basis, and independent of Government except so far as it may be entitled to a grant-in-aid. As the *Pioneer* says, all friends of true progress in India will heartily welcome this generous proof of Lord Ripon's desire, to encourage and support independent educational institutions.

WE ARE requested to invite attention to an advertisement in another column from Babu Brojonath Mookerjee, announcing that he has opened a shop for repairing shawls and other woolen fabrics. The Babu has placed before us certificates from several respectable native gentlemen of this city, testifying to the business-like and honest manner in which he performs his work. We are in a position to endorse this testimony.

FROM CORRESPONDENCE a copy of which has been kindly furnished us by the Bengal Office we learn that the influx of Mecca pilgrims having now ceased the Board of Health has resolved to break up for this season its quarantine establishment at Camaran. We further learn from the same source that cholera at Mecca is of mild type and is decreasing.

THERE WERE 344 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 9th December, of which 89 were from cholera, none from small-pox, 100 from fever, 84 from bowel complaints, 1 from accident, 23 from asthma and phisis, 23 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Thirteen children were still-born, 57 died between the ages of 15 days and under and above 15 days and under one year; 54 persons died at the age of 60 and upwards. Among non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 11. The average of daily mortality was 49·1. Cholera is raging fearfully in the town.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, December 9.—The Archbishop of Canterbury was buried yesterday at Addington. There was a large attendance at the funeral. Mr. Smith, the Liberal candidate, has defeated Mr. Forwood, the Conservative candidate, at Liverpool, by a majority of 300.

11.—Lord Derby is expected to enter the Cabinet immediately. Further changes in the Ministry are expected. Mr. Fawcett is weaker and is now suffering from hemorrhage of the throat. Owing to the embers of the late fire in Wood Street having ignited, another warehouse of Messrs. Silber and Fleming's has been completely burnt down. Captain Brett, Aide-de-Camp to the Viceroy, has died of typhoid fever. Sir Evelyn Wood sails on the 16th instant for Egypt to take up his new appointment. The *Times* states that the Egyptian Government will contribute three thousand two hundred pounds monthly towards the expenses of the British Army of occupation.

12.—The *Standard* in a leading article, announces that Earl Derby will be Secretary of State for India, Lord Hartington Secretary of State for War and Mr. Childers Chancellor of the Exchequer. The sentence of death passed upon five prisoners, who confessed to participation in the Maamtrasna murders has been commuted to penal servitude for life.

13.—Advices from Jamaica state that the town of Kingston has been partly destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at six millions sterling. The Queen yesterday received the Ambassadors from Madagascar. Legal proceedings against Davitt and Healy have been indefinitely postponed. The *Times* this morning confirms the Ministerial changes announced by the *Standard* yesterday.

14.—Lord Derby made a speech at Manchester yesterday, in which he disavowed that the policy of Government was in favour of annexation or a protectorate over Egypt. The British troops, he said, would remain there no longer than was necessary. On the occasion of Mr. Gladstone's parliamentary jubilee large number of congratulatory addresses were presented. Severe weather continued throughout Great Britain, and a great fall of snow has taken place in England and Scotland.

Cairo, December 8.—Sir Evelyn Wood has accepted the appointment of Commander of the Egyptian forces: but the organization of the army will be postponed during the British occupation. Arabi has expressed satisfaction at the arrangement for his exile to Ceylon.

12.—Colonel Stewart, who was despatched by the British authorities to report upon the state of affairs in the Soudan, state that Khartoum is safe and that everything is quiet in the vicinity. The vanggaurd of the Egyptian troops has arrived there.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Review of the External Land trade of British India. 2. Report on the administration of the Licence Tax in Bengal for 1881-82. 3. A Collection of pleadership examination papers (B. Banerjee & Co. No. 25 Cornwallis Street). 4. Bengal and Assam Pleadership Examination Rules (B. Banerjee & Co. 25 Cornwallis Street. 5. An enquiry into and easy explanation of the positive system of Life Assurance. 6. Ratanasar or easy Lessons in

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Bengali Part I. By Kamakhya Churn Ghose. 7. Calendar and Diary for 1883 of the Positive Government Security Life Assurance Company. 8. Representation of the Poona Sarvajanik Sobha on Local Self-Government. 9. Adrisya Dursun Kabya or a poem in Bengali. By Bijoykessab Bose. 10. Banga Dursun in Bengali monthly for Kartik 1289 B. E. 11. Mr. Erasmus Jones' Sheet Almanack for 1883.

WE ARE REQUESTED to publish the following list of subscribers to the National Anthem Fund :

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount already acknowledged ...	1940	3	3
Maharani Surnomoye ...	200	0	0
Raja Pramathabhusan Deb Roy of Naldanga ...	100	0	0
The Ven'ble the Raja Madhabgiri Mahanta of Tarkeswar ...	100	0	0
Babu Kallykissen Tagore ..	100	0	0
Raja Rajendranarain Roy of Joidevpore ...	20	0	0
Babu Hridoynath Sircar ...	15	0	0
Babu Sagore Dutt ...	10	0	0
Hon'ble Mahomed Yusuf ...	10	0	0
Rai Satindronath Choudhuri of Taki ...	10	0	0
,, Ramsunker Sen Bahadoor ...	10	0	0
,, Isserchunder Mitter Bahadoor ...	10	0	0
,, Buddridas Mokeem Bahadoor ...	10	0	0
Babu Phulchand Mokeem ...	10	0	0
,, Kartic Roy Churn ...	10	0	0
Messrs. J. N. Sen & Co., ...	25	0	0
Messrs. Madhuban Dass and Dwarka Dass ...	10	0	0
Babu Jodulal Mullick ...	10	0	0
,, Girindrochunder Ghose ...	10	0	0
,, Gopalchunder Gangooly ...	10	0	0
,, Kunjabehary Mullick ...	10	0	0
,, Kaliprosunno Ghose ..	10	0	0
,, Nundo al Mullick ..	10	0	0
,, Govin Lal Mullick ...	10	0	0
,, Srinath Chunder ...	10	0	0
,, Sambhunath Roy ...	10	0	0
,, Nandalal Bose ...	10	0	0
,, Jogendronath Mullick ...	10	0	0
Burmese Jewellers (2 persons) ...	10	0	0
Hindusthani Jewellers (5 persons) ...	19	0	0
Thakurs &c. of Bhatpara (144 persons) ...	11	9	3
Haldars of Kalighat (27 persons) ..	15	6	0
Small donations (9 persons) ...	37	0	0
Received through Raja Sourindromohun Tagore :—			
Small donations (8 persons) ...	23	0	0
From his Calcutta property ...	50	0	0
	2866	2	6
Interest on Government paper of the 4 per cent loan on which Rs. 1000 out of the amount realised has been inverted ..	6	10	8
Total ...	2872	13	2

BAIKUNTHANATHA BASU,
Hon. Secy. and Treasurer,
N. A. Committee at Calcutta.

Pathuriaghata Rajbati, 17th December, 1882.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1882.

LORD DERBY.

IT IS announced that there will be some important changes in the Cabinet. Mr. Gladstone finds the Exchequer work too heavy for himself, and so he wishes to appoint Mr. Childers the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Marquis of Hartington will then go to the War Office, and Lord Derby will take his place in the India Office. The accession of Lord Derby to the Ministry will greatly strengthen it. Lord Derby unattached to any political party was a political anomaly. By tradition his legitimate place was the chiefship of the Conservative party. But he severed his connection with that party as he could not agree with Lord Beaconsfield on important points of Foreign Policy. His Lordship is also far too liberal in his views to follow the traditions of his party. He has accordingly taken his stand under the banner of Mr. Gladstone. It is a great sacrifice which he has made by changing front. If he had adhered to his own party he might have become Prime Minister, but his Lordship is too conscientious and too honest to care for office. To the Liberals he brings considerable strength by reason of his high position, lofty principles, and unquestionable abilities. The proposed change will affect India intimately. The Marquis of Hartington vacates the India Office. Opinions differ as to the value of his Lordship's services as the Minister for India. It is said that he is indolent, devoid of application, and fond of amusements. This may or may not be true, but there were good reasons why his Lordship could not devote that close attention to the details of Indian administration, which the magnitude of the charge committed to his care demanded. His Parliamentary work naturally took up a great portion of his time. Next to Mr. Gladstone he was the most important representative of the Ministry in the House of Commons. And a leader in the House has no ordinary cares, anxieties, and labour. It could not be expected that after giving the best part of his time to Parliamentary work, Lord Hartington would have sufficient leisure for Indian work. No wonder then that his Lordship could not do that for India which his official position demanded of him. In one sense this was perhaps good for India. Since the transfer of the Government of India from the Company to the Crown the overshadowing influence of the Indian Minister has greatly diminished the power and usefulness of the Indian Viceroy. The latter has become a mere wire-puller. Whatever he has to do he must take the previous sanction of the Secretary of State to it, and so he pulls the wires. Not unfrequently has the Government of India to register the decrees of the India Office. But with such an enlightened, liberal and sympathizing statesman as Lord Ripon at the head of the Indian Government, the less interference there is from the India Office the better. If India is to be governed in India, that principle should be fully recognized when a conscientious statesman guides the helm of Indian affairs. Home Rule is as much needed for India as it is for Ireland, provided the people be allowed to have a voice in the administration of the country. Lord Ripon has already announced a noble policy of local self-government, but the country will not derive the full benefit of self-rule, if the Councils be not thrown open to the representatives of the people. We do hope that his Lordship will not rest satisfied till he places the whole system of Indian administration on a broad and popular basis.

Lord Derby will not be afflicted with the same Parliamentary cares that attend Lord Harington. In the House of Lords the Parliamentary work of a Minister is not heavy. Lord Derby will not be new to the India Office. As Lord Stanley he was the Minister of India in the troublous time of the Sepoy Revolt, and his Lordship had an active hand in the construction of the present system of Indian administration under the Crown. It was he who devised the present scheme of the Indian Council, and brought it into working order. The celebrated Proclamation of the Queen on the transfer of the Government of India from the Company to the Crown, which is justly regarded by the people of India as their Royal Charter, was the joint composition of himself and his illustrious father. The noble principles enunciated in it at once showed the cast of his mind, and all statesmen who have come after him as Secretary of State for India or as Viceroy of India have paid the tribute of their respect to those principles. We hail with particular pleasure Lord Derby's accession to the India Office at the present juncture of Indian affairs. There are some very important Indian problems awaiting solution. There is for instance the question of Education. It might be remembered that in 1859 Lord Derby wrote a celebrated despatch interpreting and we may say supplementing the Education Despatch of 1854. His Lordship is therefore sure to take a lively interest in the work of the Education Commission appointed by Lord Ripon. Then there is the question of the extension of local self-government. It is a new departure in the policy of Indian administration. His Lordship's sympathies have been always liberal and generous and on the side of the people in the conduct of the Indian Government, and we make no doubt that he will co-operate with Lord Ripon in the promotion of the political education of the natives of this country. It is also fortunate that he will be at the head of the India Office when the Bengal Rent Bill is on the *tapis*. The Rent Act of 1589 was passed when he was the Secretary of State for India, and he is therefore presumably well-acquainted with its history. His Lordship's views on the land question of Ireland were moderate, and we feel confident that he will bring judgment, moderation, and his keen sense of justice to bear on the deliberations on the Bengal Rent Bill. It is true that the general principles of the Rent Bill have been already settled by Lord Hartington. But we doubt not that if in carrying the Bill through the Legislative Council the Government of India should find a body of opinion, intelligent, reasonable, and honest, in opposition to the views expressed by the Secretary of State, we do not think that Lord Derby would refuse to reconsider the points already decided. Of one thing we feel confident. Knowing full well the spirit in which he conducted the Indian affairs in the past we are convinced that there will be harmony of action between him and Lord Ripon, and that the country will gain by his installation at the India Office. We take it for granted that when the *Times* has confirmed the announcement, the intelligence is correct, but we should mention that the Viceroy has received no communication on the subject.

As we were going to press we have been favoured with the following telegram :

Mr. Childers leaves the War Office and becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer, (thus relieving Mr. Gladstone of one of his two offices), Lord Hartington takes Mr. Childers' place as Secretary of State for War, and is replaced at the India Office by Lord Kimberley, who again is succeeded in the Colonial Office by Lord Derby.

So the hopes raised in the Indian mind by the announcement of Lord Derby's appointment to the India Office are dashed to the ground. Lord Kimberley is a rising statesman, but he is a complete stranger to India and Indian affairs.

SIR RICHARD GARTH ON THE BENGAL RENT BILL.

VI.

SIR RICHARD GARTH lays the greatest stress upon the extension of the occupancy right as the greatest encroachment on the landlord rights. His Lordship would not go behind Act X of 1859 and enquire whether that Act as contended by many well conversant with the history of land legislation in Bengal is an infringement of the Permanent Settlement Regulations. He accepts Act X of 1859 as an accomplished fact, and holds that there is no good reason why the principle of the occupancy tenure recognized in it should be altered. It was a compromise, and it ought to be adhered to. Sir Richard Garth, if he was so inclined, might have shewn that the occupancy clause of Act X of 1859 was a bold innovation. Let us see on what basis does the occupancy right exist in the other provinces of the empire. We will take the report of the Famine Commission of 1879 for our guide.

In the Punjab, at the time of the first settlement of the land, all tenants of any standing were declared to be entitled to occupancy right. This declaration was afterwards contested when a more elaborate record of titles was in progress; and large numbers of tenants who had thus been recorded as possessed of this right were held not to be entitled to it. Ultimately, after prolonged discussion, it was provided by Act XXVIII of 1868 that all tenants whose past history or circumstances at that time indicated a privileged position, or who had been recorded in any preceding settlement as entitled to occupancy right, should be so treated in future, but no provision was made for the future accrual of such right by reason of the efflux of time during the occupation of land as a tenant-at-will. When once an occupancy tenant's rent has been enhanced by the decree of a Rent Court, a second suit cannot be brought for five years unless the land revenue has been raised meanwhile in the course of a settlement. The number of tenants of this class is 540,000, and they cultivate an average area of 6½ acres. The tenants-at-will are about 1,100,000 in number, with an average area of 5·9 acres apiece. In the North-Western Provinces in the earliest regular settlements (made under the provisions of Regulation VII of 1822 and Act IX of 1833) rent-rolls were drawn up in which all tenants residing and cultivating land in the village were recorded as in permanent occupation of their holdings, and their rents were fixed by the settlement officer on the understanding that they were not to be enhanced during the term of settlement. By the passing of Act X of 1859 provision was made for the first time for the separation of the two classes of tenants according as they had or had not cultivated their lands continuously for the space of 12 years, and for the enhancement of the rents of occupancy tenants on certain specified grounds by decree

of the Rent Court, a further stipulation being made that in the pemanently settled districts those who were proved or presumed to have been in occupation at the time of the Permanent Settlement should not be liable to any enhancement of rent. In 1873 an amended Rent Act was passed, which prescribed stricter rules for the determination of enhancement suits, and created a new class of "privileged" tenants, viz, those who had been proprietary cultivators, but had lost their proprietary rights by sale or otherwise, though still remaining on the land as cultivators. The number of tenants at fixed rates in the permanently settled districts has not yet been recorded. The occupancy-tenants in the North-West-Provinces hold 41 per cent. and the tenants-at-will 31 per cent. of the cultivated land, the balance being tilled by the proprietors themselves. It is estimated that the former class number about 1,500,000 and the latter about 1,200,000, the average area cultivated by each tenant being 4·8 and 4 acres respectively. In Oudh occupancy rights were altogether unknown at the time of annexation, and the bulk of the cultivators hold as tenant-at-will. The occupancy right has, however, been conceded as a compromise to those who were formerly proprietors, and had not been altogether deprived of their rights by the talookdars. There are in Oudh nearly two million tenants, holding 3·1 acres apiece on an average. In Bengal Act X of 1859 has made quite a revolution in the relation between the landlord and the tenant. The total number of tenants in Bengal is said to be 10 millions. The following is a classification of them according to the amount of rent paid by them :

	Rs.	Bengal. Rs.		Number of Tenants
Tenants paying over		100	...	25,241
Ditto	50 to	100	...	119,617
Ditto	20 to	50	...	682,353
Ditto	5 to	20	...	2,789,409
Ditto under		5	...	6,136,264
Total.				9,752,884

In the Central Provinces the unprivileged tenants-at-will are in the same position as in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces. The privileged or occupancy tenants are divided into two classes; absolute occupancy-tenants, whose rents are fixed by the settlement officer for the term of the settlement, and who can mortgage their holdings, and, subject to the landlord's right of pre-emption, transfer them; and conditional occupancy tenants, who are not entitled in the absence of special local custom, to mortgage or sell, and whose rights in other respects are those laid down by Act X. of 1859. There is also a class of old and well-established tenants who possess a right almost equivalent to proprietary right but confined to the plot of land they cultivate; their numbers are about 15,000. Regarding the other classes of occupants the following information is on record :

	No.	Average Holding in Acres.
Absolute occupants ...	159,715	19½
Conditional occupants ...	121 807	15½
Tenants-at-will ...	469,031	14

It will be seen from the above analysis that in Bengal the greatest encroachment has been made on landlord rights. We believe 90 per cent. of the ryots in this province have acquired occupancy right and taken the position of what is called the privileged class. But the aggressiveness of the legislature has it would seem sown seeds of disturbance between the landlord and the tenant throughout the country. The Famine Commission remark: "From all quarters it is reported that the relations between the landlord and the tenants with occupancy rights are not in a satisfactory state, and are becoming yearly more and more hostile; so much so that a landlord will generally refuse any aid to his occupancy tenants when they are in difficulties and will do all that he can to ruin them and drive them off the land. The reason of this hostility is that an opposition of interests has been created between the two classes; the occupancy-tenant possesses a beneficial interest in the land, and intercepts a portion of the profits which the landlord would obtain if he were able to exact from him the full rent which he can obtain from a tenant-at-will." This antagonism between class and class bodes no good, and we regret it very much.

In the Bombay Presidency the bulk of the landholders are peasant farmers, technically called "occupants," paying land revenue direct to Government, and enjoying, subject to such payment, a veritable and transferable property in their holdings. This conditional proprietary tenure has, however, a tendency to favour the growth under it of a class of sub-tenants, and such a class is now known to exist. There are also tenants under the holders of land technically called "alienated," that is, land from which the State-right to receive rent or revenue has been wholly or partially transferred to private persons. Lastly, there are in Guzerat and the Konkan two small classes of landlords whose land is cultivated by tenants. To give some protection to all such inferior holders, provisions regarding tenant's rights were introduced into the Bombay Revenue Code of 1879. The effect of these is, that in the absence of any agreement or custom to the contrary, old tenants, or those as to the commencement or intended duration of whose tenancy there is, by reason of antiquity, no satisfactory evidence, are secured in possession of their holdings as long as they pay the rent fixed by agreement or claimable by usage, or if there be no evidence of usage or agreement, the rent found just and reasonable by a Civil Court. But there is no provision for the accrual of occupancy right in virtue of possession as tenant for twelve years or any prescribed period. The other classes of tenants recognized by the law are tenants under agreement and tenants by annual tenancy, and the rent payable by them is determinable in the same way as that of the old tenants, but they have not the same prescriptive right of occupancy. The landlord may enhance the rent as he may be entitled by agreement, usage, or otherwise, and may evict for non-payment. These provisions are applicable generally to all persons holding land from a superior holder or landlord. In Madras according to a decision of the local High Court passed in 1871 a zemindari tenant is a tenant-at-will, and in the absence of the proof of a custom to the contrary the landlord has absolute right to enhance or eject.

The law of tenant-right is thus not the same throughout India. The boldest advance was made in Bengal by Act X of 1859. And yet it is proposed to abrogate the twelve years' rule recognized by that Act.

There are two important questions connected with the legal incidents of the occupancy right. The Famine Commission remark: "Two important questions closely connected with the matters of which we are now treating are whether the occupancy-tenant should have the power of transferring his rights by sale or mortgage, and whether he should have the right of sub-letting. The former of these two questions has been much discussed in the evidence taken by our Commission, and elsewhere, and very different conclusions have been arrived at, one party contending that the right is imperfect and incomplete unless it can be sold, the other fearing that if it becomes a marketable property the tenant will be tempted to borrow on the strength of it, and will so be led into debt, with the same evil results as have occurred in the case of the proprietors in some parts of the country. In the North-Western Provinces when the Rent Act was under revision, in 1873, the latter view prevailed, and these occupancy rights were then declared not transferable, and in the bill now under consideration for the Central Provinces it is proposed to make them transferable only to such persons as can inherit from the tenant. In Bengal, on the other hand, the majority of officers, headed by the Lieutenant-Governor, desire that the rights should be made transferable by sale, and see in this provision a measure which will tend greatly to strengthen the tenant's position. Though on the whole we regard the general concession of the power of sale of these rights to be expedient, and ultimately almost unavoidable, the immediate course to be followed by the Government must no doubt be to a great extent governed by local custom. Where the custom has grown up, and the tenants are in the habit of selling or mortgaging their rights in land, it should certainly be recognized by the law; and where it has not, it may be questioned whether the law should move in advance of the feelings and wishes of the people."

In Bengal the local custom is that the occupancy tenure may be sold with the consent of the landlord. The law upon this point has been so clearly set forth in the judgment of Sir Richard Couch which we quoted the other day that we need not dilate upon it again. We next turn to the question of sub-letting. The Famine Commission remark: "But the question of sub-letting seems to us to be one of even greater importance. The more valuable the occupancy right becomes by reason of such measures of protection as we have advocated, the more need there will then be of guarding against a custom which is everywhere prevalent in India, under which the privileged tenant is apt to turn into a middleman, sub-letting the land and living on the difference between the rack-rent and the privileged rate secured to him by the law. The occupancy right can only be beneficial to the community when enjoyed by a *bona fide* cultivator; and the object of the law should be to prevent any one who is not a *bona fide* cultivator from acquiring or retaining such rights. If this can be secured, the chief danger in the way of making such rights marketable will be removed, for they will not be able to pass into the hands of money-lenders; and if a tenant who becomes deeply involved is sold up, his land will pass to another tenant presumably a more thrifty man, and the public interests will not suffer by such a substitution. We, therefore, recommend that concurrently with the extension of the right of transfer the practice of sub-letting by an occupancy-tenant should be discouraged, or even, if possible, forbidden. Care must no doubt be taken lest such a measure should work harshly. But if a tenant, for a long period, fails to keep up the stock required for cultivating his land, or otherwise ceases to be by occupation and habit a bona fide cultivator, the rights he or his ancestors acquired by cultivating the soil might reasonably pass from him to the person who, having become the actual cultivator, occupies his place. We conceive that it would not be difficult for the Rent Courts to investigate and decide the question of fact, whether a tenant with occupancy rights has or has not wilfully ceased to be a habitual cultivator in respect of the whole or any part of his holding; and when such lapse is established the occupancy right might be held to have passed to the person to whom the actual cultivation of the land has been transferred." But strange to say the Bengal Rent Bill recognizes sub-letting. It will not, as we have over and over shown in these columns, in the least benefit the *bona fide* or actual cultivators of the soil.

THE TIMES ON THE BENGAL RENT BILL.

THE TIMES has spoken on the Bengal Rent Bill. The London paper has not evidently studied the subject: it proceeds solely upon sentiment, and then arrives at conclusions, which are opposed to experience. It begins by comparing the ryots of Bengal with those of the other provinces. Thus it says :

The impoverishment of the Indian cultivator is a text upon which many homilies have been founded, some of them unfortunately contuining exaggerations which weaken rather than strengthen the case. But there is no doubt that in varying degrees, depending upon the great variety of conditions obtaining in our Indian empire, life has been made harder for the tillers of the soil by a Government which has honestly laboured to benefit them, and has in fact removed or mitigated many grievous evils formerly suffered by them. There is only too much reason to fear that in some districts we have to deal not merely with the impoverishment of the cultivator, but with the serious and progressive impoverishment of the soil. Sometimes because the old proportion of fallow years can no longer be maintained, sometimes because more exhausting crops are required to meet the drain upon the ryot's purse, sometimes because the people have to use for fuel the manure they formerly put upon the land, an insidious reduction of producing power is going on in certain districts, which if unchecked must end in bankruptcy. Some of the remoter causes of this state of things are to be found in the blessings our rule has conferred upon India, but some are due to our own mistakes. Where once land competed for cultivators, cultivators

now compete for land. We have abolished war, we have greatly mitigated famine, we have done much to extirpate wild beasts and to circumscribe the area of pestilence. The removal of these natural checks upon population has produced an increasing strain upon the resources of the soil which Indian administrators cannot view without disquietude. But this unavoidable difficulty inhering in the very nature of our civilization, is aggravated by causes due to and therefore removable by legislation. It is with these that the Indian Government is now endeavouring to grapple.

Now, there is overwhelming testimony that the ryots of Bengal at the present day are far better off than their brethren in the other provinces, where the State is the landlord. This testimony is borne by high officials and official records. But the *Times* has not apparently seen those records.

Then the *Times* pronounces the Permanent Settlement of Bengal an egregious blunder. It says:

The Bengal Rent Bill, now awaiting the sanction of the Home Government, is an attempt to deal with the evils which have grown during the last ninety years out of one of the most remarkable blunders ever made by well-meaning rulers. When the East India Company sought to place the revenue of Bengal upon an intelligible and satisfactory footing, it found itself confronted with a mass of customary rights of the most intricate kind, based upon a general principle quite incomprehensible to the Englishman of that generation. Between the actual cultivator and the Sovereign there was no one possessing rights over the soil. The revenue consisted of the rent, and the occupier so long as he paid the stipulated sum had an indefeasible title. A land system without a landlord appeared so strange an anomaly that the first thing the officials of the day did was to cast about for some set of men of which to create a landlord class. After much sadly misused research, they came to the conclution that the Zemindars, or tax-farmers of the old *regime*, were the proper persons to erect into the missing class. Although theoretically these revenue-collectors had no rights over the land beyond that of collecting rent and retaining for themselves a certain fixed allowance, they had through the laxity or weakness of the rulers acquired great wealth and influence. They exacted, as tax-farmers in the East invariably do, a great deal more than their legitimate claims, and they probably paid in many cases a great deal less to the exchequer than the area under their management ought to have produced. They were able to make themselves heard, and they bore a superficial resemblance to the English landlord. LORD CORNWALLIS accordingly made them the cornerstone of his system by declaring them owners in perpetuity of the land they formerly farmed, at a rental equivalent to the land tax they were formerly bound to pay over to the Government. The ryots were known to have rights of an extensive kind, but their exact nature was not ascertained, and it was assumed as a much more easy way out of the difficulty that the pleasant relations obtaining between English landlords and tenants would spring up in Bengal, and that a fair rent would be settled by contract.

The above we are constrained to say is a tissue of misstatements. We are tired of shewing that the zemindars were the actual proprietors of the soil and not mere collectors of revenue, that their rights were in some respects much greater than those enjoyed by the English landlords, that the Corwallis assessment was simply ruinous, that owing to its excessive pressure most of the first Zemindars were sold out, that the waste lands were given to the zemindars by way of compensation, but that this compensation did not save them from ruin. Their successors have certainly benefited by the reclamation of waste lands, but how could rights accrue to the ryot over those lands, which had not been conferred by the Zemindar. This is so plain and clear that we are surprised that it should be contested at all. But the *Times* has ignored this fact.

The *Times* then goes on: "The Bengal Rent Act now under consideration is an attempt to revert in some degree to the original land tenure of the country, a much simpler and better one than we can devise to take its place. It need not be said that such an attempt now wears the aspect of interference with private property. The Zemindars are in possession of rights conferred upon them by ourselves, but which were not ours to confer. The curtailment of these rights in some way is recognized as absolutely necessary for the tranquillity of Bengal, yet it is impossible without applying something like the principles of the Irish Land Act.

"The Chief Justice of Bengal, as will be seen by the quotation from his minute given in our telegram, takes the view natural to a Conservative lawyer. The proposed interference with vested rights appears to him a ruinous policy of confiscation. But the vested rights of the ryots are older, greater, and more important to the State than those of the Zemindars. The great injustice of the Permanent Settlement must be remedied under terrible penalties for those we govern and for ourselves. That some hardship should accrue to the wealthier classes is probably inevitable, but that cannot be held to justify the continued infliction of greater hardships upon the masses of Bengal peasants." The *Times* is again wrong. It supposes that all land holders are wealthy. But this is not the fact. There are numerous men under the superior landholder, who are not wealthy, and who certainly deserve as much protection of the Government as the poor ryot, if the poverty of the subject gives him a greater claim to such protection. We, however, submit that all subjects of the Queen-Empress, rich or poor deserve equal protection and even-handed justice. The *Times'* article is so uninformed, illogical, and one-sided that we wonder how it got there.

KASHMIR.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* has returned to the congenial task of crying down the Kashmir Durbar. The serious charges which our contemporary brought against the Srinagur authorities during the late famine in the "Happy Valley" will be in the recollection of the reader. Those charges were proved to be utterly unfounded; and now the Lahore paper directs its attack against the fiscal system in force in the territories of His Highness the Maharaja of Jummu and Kashmir. The writer takes for his text the abandonment of the Viceroy's intended visit to the "Happy Valley," and says:—"The visit, if undertaken, would have enabled the Viceroy to compare the condition of the British subjects with those of the Maharaja, and might thus have led to the introduction of some reforms; and, perhaps, to the amelioration of the condition of the people of Jummu and Kashmir." We sincerely trust Lord Ripon, Sir Charles Aitchison or some other high dignitary of the British Government will compare the condition of the subjects of the Maharaja of Jummu and Kashmir with that of the people of Oudh, Jhausi, and the Deccan. Oudh and Jhansi have been under British rule for a quarter of a little more than a century and the Deccan has enjoyed the "blessings" of enlightened English administration for upwards of sixty years Let us examine how these provinces have fared under British rule. In doing so, we will base our observations upon state papers and the writings of European officials; so that their accuracy may not be questioned. Mr. Irwin, of the Bengal Civil Service, a member of the Oudh Commission, in his "Garden of India" thus describes the condition of the agricultural classes in that province:—"Taking the province as a whole, it is scarcely too much to say that a large proportion of cultivators have neither food sufficient to keep them in health, nor clothes sufficient to protect them from the weather; their cattle are miserably thin and weak from under-feeding; that they are hardly ever out of debt for twelve months together, * * * * and that except in specially favourable seasons, they are dependent on the money-lender for their food from two to six months in the year. The Oudh tenantry and their families—men, women, and children together—do not on an average consume even so much as 20oz. of food grain per diem. Well-fed-looking men are certainly the exception among them rather than the rule, and it is notorious that the able-bodied adult convict nearly always increases in weight after a few months on a gaol diet of 24oz. The condition of Oudh cultivators might seem to be life reduced to its lowest terms." We again quote from Mr. Irwin's *Garden of India*. He writes:—"Everywhere, in every hamlet, there is a residuum of half-clad starvelings, who have no cattle and no means of livelihood save, perhaps, a tiny piece of spade-tilled land; and their labour remunerated at the rate of 4lbs. of coarse gram, or of three half-pence, or, at most, two-pence farthing per diem? And even this wretched employment is not procurable all the year round. How, under-fed and almost unclothed as they are, they contrive to live through the cold nights of winter, which they often spend in field-watching to keep off thieves, is a standing marvel." This picture, be it remembered, has been drawn, not by the mischief-makers connected with the Native Press which according to the authors of the now defunct Gagging Act, prevented the general popular recognition of the merits of British rule—but by a responsible English official who had spent many years in the province and studied its condition thoroughly, and who is still a member of the Oudh Commission. Does the *Civil and Military Gazette* mean to say that the condition of the people of Jummu and Kashmir is worse than that of the British subjects in Oudh?

Nor is the case of Oudh exceptional. Let us also look into the present state of the Deccan and of Jhansi. The Deccan ryot has enjoyed the "beneficent effects" of British rule for upwards of sixty years. What was the condition of the people of that province when it was first incorporated with the British dominions and what is their present state? Mountstuart Elphinistone, who was for many years Resident at the Court of the Peishwa, and who administered his territories for some time after their annexation in 1818, says:—"Till of late years, the situation of the lower orders was very comfortable, and that of the upper prosperous. There was abundance of employment in the domestic establishments and foreign conquests of the nation." We have thus the testimony of a thoroughly competent and trustworthy witness like Mountstuart Elphinistone to the effect that, when the Paishwa's territories were annexed, the condition of the lower classes of the people was comfortable. Now, how have the mass of the people in the Deccan profited by the "blessings" of British rule? Mr. Sackville Marriot who was then Commissioner of the Deccan thus describes the condition of the Deccan people in 1836:—"For many years past I have in common with many others, painfully witnessed the decline of the people, and more especially that part of the community which has emphatically been styled the sinews of the State—the peasantry of India. * * * * In elucidation of the position that this country is varying to the lowest ebb of pauperism, I would adduce a fact pregnant with considerations of the most serious importance, namely, that of late years a large portion of the public revenue has been paid by encroachment upon the capital of the country small though that capital is in itself. I allude to the property of the peasantry, which consists of personal ornaments of the precious metals and jewels convertible, as occasions required, to profitable purposes, and accommodations in agricultural pursuits most frequently in the shape of pawn till the object has been obtained. 'I feel certain that an examination would establish that a considerable share of this and other property even to cattle and household utensils, has been for ever alienated from its proprietors to make good the public revenue. In addition to this lamentable evidence of poverty, is another of equal force to be seen in all parts of the country, numerous individuals of the above class of the community wandering about for the employment of hirelings, which they are glad to obtain even for the most scanty pittance. In short almost everything forces the conviction that we have before a narrowing progress to utter pauperism." Such was the state of things in 1836, and has there been any improvement in the material condition of the wretched Kumbi since Mr. Marriott wrote? The best answer to that question is furnished by Mr. Hope's Deccan Agriculturists Relief Bill which was passed last three years ago. In order to prevent the utter ruin of the ryot, the Government of Lord Lytton sanctioned a measure of downright confiscation.

For Jhansi, too, it has been found necessary to pass a special relief measure. "The beneficent effect of British rule" has actually ruined the agricultural classes of that province. We would entreat the writer in the *Civil and Military*

Gazette to go through the debates upon the Jhansi Bill on the various occasions it came up before the Viceroy's Legislative Council, and then say whether the condition of the people of Jummu and Kashmir is worse than that of the British subjects in Jhansi. The Bill, said Mr. Crosthwaite, the Member in charge of it, "is a confessing error," and the error had arisen from a persistent ignoring of the stern fact that agriculture in Jhansi is a precarious business. We would also ask the writer in the *Gazette* to bear in mind the significant fact that while enlightened British rule has ruined Jhansi, the circumadjacent Native States are fairly prosperous under the barbarous and unscientific administration of their oppressive chiefs. It has been well said that an ounce of fact is worth pounds of speculation. Here is a fact which the *Civil and Military Gazette* must account for. It should first compare the condition of the British subject in Oudh, Jhansi and the Deccan with that of the people of Jummu and Kashmir and then denounce the misrule of those territories and demand their annexation.

THE OPENING OF THE DEOGHUR RAILWAY.

THIS LITTLE Railway, some account of which we gave in our issue of the 10th ultimo, was formally opened on Monday last, though there would be some delay in throwing it open to public traffic for necessary compliance with the rules of the circumlocation office. Messrs. Burn and Co., who started the project and organised the Company, which has constructed the Railway, and who are the managing agents of the company, invited a select number of European and Native gentlemen to witness the ceremony of opening the Railway. The party left Howrah by a special train on Sunday night and arrived at Baidyanath junction on the following morning at 6 A.M. They were taken over the new line slowly in order to give them an opportunity to see the works carefully; they halted at the Dewrah bridge, which they examined and appeared to be well satisfied with. We need not repeat what we have already said about the substantial and workman-like manner in which the works have been executed. The people of the locality had collected in large crowds to greet the first run of the iron horse, and loudly cheered as the train passed. On arrival the party visited the temples, and Mr. Rae, on behalf of Messrs. Burn and Co., gave presents to the priests and alms to the poor. The labourers on the works, numbering about a thousand, were also entertained with a substantial dinner. Mr. Rae from his position was the centre of attraction, and the priests and the poor blessed him with both hands. The Santhali labourers on the works got up their native dances for the entertainment of the visitors, in which both men and women joined. The European guests then adjourned to a tent adjoining, where a sumptuous breakfast was laid out for them by the establishment of Messrs. Kellner and Co. The Hindu guests were served in the Hindu style in the house of Babu Hera Chand Chatterjea, the Engineer to the Railway, under his careful personal superintendence. After breakfast the usual toasts were proposed and responded to. At about 2 P.M., the party left Baidyanath and reached Burdwan at 7 P.M., where the European visitors had a hearty dinner; the special train returned to Howrah at 11 P.M. The trip was very pleasant, and the visitors one and all heartily enjoyed the holiday, thanks to Messrs. Burn and Co.

Deoghur, as our Hindu readers are aware, is an old Hindu shrine of great repute. There are no less than three legends connected with it, the most popular of which is this. Ravana, the ten-headed King of Lanka (Ceylon), had gone to Kailas, the Himalayan abode of Shiva, and offered prayers; the God was propitiated and directed him to ask for blessing. Ravana prayed that the God-head will be pleased to remove his abode to his Kingdom (Lanka); the God consented on one condition, which was that he should carry him in his journey on his own person without placing him on the ground even once. Ravana, who was a giant of huge bodily strength and courage, readily agreed, and carried Shiva on his head. When the gods above saw Shiva their protector carried away by the monster, they were filled with alarm, and moved Vishnu and Bhagabati, the wife of Shiva, to come to their rescue. They responded; Bhagabati, in the form of an old Brahmin lady, approached Ravana, and induced him to drink a few drops of sacred water for the consecration of his person. Ravana drank the water, in disguise of which Baruna or Neptune entered his body, and the king of the giants was immediately seized with diabetes. As he felt sick, Vishnu in the guise of an old Brahmin, appeared before Ravana; the latter accosted him, and besought him to take charge of Shiva for a while; Vishnu consented on the understanding that he should not be made to wait longer than an hour. Ravana's sickness did not, however, abate within the promised time; Vishnu was impatient, and the moment the hour expired, he left Shiva on the ground; on Shiva touching the ground there was a shriek in the air, Ravana's sickness now ceased, he came back, and seeing Shiva on the ground, tried to take him up, but all his giant strength failed to move him an inch from the ground. He then renewed his worship and prayer, but Shiva was inexorable, and Ravana was obliged to return home disappointed. The site where Shiva was thus left happened to be Deoghur, and it has since become a shrine of high repute. The temples which are now in existence were built by the ancestors of the Maharaja of Gidbore. Subsequently the zemindari in which the great Temple is situate passed into the hands of a Mahomedan landholder of Beerbhoom. The priests, however, retained their right to the temple and the idol. When the Permanent Settlement was made the East India Company granted a sanad to the head-priest and confirmed succession in the family on condition that they will appropriate a portion of the offerings to the idol to certain public charities and objects. On this condition the head-priest still holds his right to the temple and the temple lands. There is a large number of priests, about thirteen in number, who have settled in Deoghur, and who live by their services to the idol. The offerings are divided in this way; whatever, that is to say coin, gold, silver or jewel, is placed on the head of the idol is appropriated by the head-priest, and whatever is offered for the worship of the idol is taken by the officiating priest of the pilgrim. The priests are not extortionate, and they are a well-to-do class. About five lakhs of pilgrims it is said visit the shrine every year.

The Deoghur Railway will greatly contribute to the convenience of the pilgrims. Hitherto the palanqueen was the usual mode of conveyance for the rich, but those who walked on foot were put to great inconvenience and hardship. During the rains when the Dewra was full communication between the two sides of the place was difficult. The rich and the poor then suffered alike. The new Railway will obviate this inconvenience and hardship. It will also attract goods traffic. From what we have seen of the locality we make no doubt that the line will prove highly remunerative. Deoghur is a sanitarium; it is easy of access, and if Messrs. Burn and Co. will built small bungalows along their line, they will confer a great benefit upon the public at large, who now suffer from want of decent and comfortable accommodation at Deoghur.

There are some points connected with the Deoghur Railway which deserve notice. This is the first Railway of its kind. It has been constructed with capital locally raised and without any guarantee from Government, which has only given the land free of cost. Then this is the only Railway, which has been constructed by a native of Bengal, Babu Herachand Chatterjea, Engineer to the Railway. In proposing the health of this gentleman Mr. Prestage justly said:

> He had much pleasure in proposing to them another Toast, and that was the health of Baboo Hira Charn Chatterjee, Messrs. Burn & Co.'s Engineer in charge of the works (cheers.) All who had travelled over the line must admit it had been constructed in a very substantial and workman like manner, and if his friend Kristo Dass Pal would allow him to say so, although we could not hope to create blue stockinged navvies out of Bengalis, yet he could say after an experience of nearly a quarter of a century in the construction and working of Railways in this country, that there was no doubt the Natives possessed much of the superior intelligence and skill necessary to qualify them to become useful constructors, and for his part he thought it a misfortune that more use was not made of their skill in the manner Messrs, Burn and Co., had made use of that of Baboo Hira Charn Chatterjee, whose health he had the pleasure to propose.

Babu Herachand was brought up at Roorkee and learnt the work of Railway construction on the Rajputana line. Messrs. Burn and Co. deserve our thanks for bringing to public notice this native engineer; if the Government and other Railway Companies will thus encourage Native engineers of ability and experience, we make bold to say that they will not be found wanting.

There is another important point, which we would wish to impress on the minds of our countrymen, *viz.* the desirableness of a union of European and Indian capitalists in furtherance of enterprise of this description. We of course feel thankful to the Rothschilds and the Barings for lending their capital to India, but as Mr. Prestage pointed out they will take the profits to their own country. But if our countrymen can embark in undertakings of this kind they will keep the money in their own country. There are European capitalists like Messrs. Burn and Co., who are willing to work with native capitalists hand in hand, and we would exhort both to combine and cooperate in the developement of the resources of the country and in the advancement of its welfare. Nothing could be better than the spirit which Messrs. Burn and Co. have shewn in this business. Of course every Railway Company seek the good of the country, though always with an eye to the main chance, that is the dividends, but the Deoghur Railway Company have been the first to seek the good of the people by courting their good will as shewn by the generous acts of their representatives on Monday last.

THE NORTH-WEST AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

WE PROCEED to notice Mr. Benett's Report on the administraiion of the North-West Department of Agriculture and Commerce for 1881-82. The duties undertaken by this Department are numerous, and it is impossible, within the compass of a single newspaper article to summarise all its operations during the year. We will therefore, comment only on some of the more important topics treated of in the Report before us. The patwari and kanungo staff first claims our attention. Mr. Benett rightly observes that to ensure the maintenance and compilation of accurate village statistics is one of the principal duties of his Department. In some districts the records have been accurately kept, but in others the case is widely different. For instance, regarding Furrakhabad, we are told that the patwari's papers were frequently so inaccurate as to be nearly useless. The patwari's papers in Shahjehanpore, too, are generally untrustworthy. "The supervisors," we read, "had neither tested the papers of the year before, nor made any effort to carry out the local testings for the current year. In many instances their patwaris' registers had not been written up for two years. In three out of the four tahsils their diaries showed that eight supervisors had not done on an average more than one day's work apiece in a month since the beginning of the year." It will thus be seen that much still remains to be done in order to ensure the maintenance and compilation of accurate village statistics. Without considerable improvement of the patwari and kanungo staff, it is, we think, idle to expect that the object which the Government has in view will be attained. The North-West Agricultural Department has taken an important step in the matter of improving the kanungo staff by taking in under-graduates of the Calcutta University as apprentice kanungos. This experiment has proved a great success, and we have every reason to believe that it will gradually be extended. But the improvement of the patwari staff is a much more difficult task. If you wish to raise the tone and efficiency of any class of officers,

you must first increase their pay and improve their position. When you are not prepared to do this, do not talk of making them honest and efficient. The patwaris are much the same in all parts of the country. Take the temporarily-settled province of Orissa. Mr. Beadon, Collector of Balasore, writes :—"patwari papers have been pronounced absolutely useless, and opinions are divided as to the possibility of making any good out of them by legislation." The Collector of Pooree says :—"It is clear that the patwaris, as patwaris are practically useless. Generally, the remuneration they get is not sufficient to enable them to devote their whole time and attention to the duties of village accountant. They must do something else to supplement their incomes." The Collector of Cuttack observes that, except in carrying out orders, furnishing reports and making collections, "it is impossible to get work from the patwaris, and they might as well not have existed from the time of settlement." Mr. Buck, while Director of Agriculture, N.-W. P. framed an elaborate code for the training of patwaris known as "Buck's Institutes;" but as he could do nothing to raise their pay and improve their position, his code has not borne much fruit. We are glad to see that Raja Shankar Singh of Etah, in order to improve the efficiency of the patwari and kanungo staff of his district has opened a school of surveying in connextion with the local Government zilla school, which he maintains entirely at his own expense. This is a move in the right direction; but it should be clearly understood that any considerable improvement of the patwari staff is impossible without an increase of pay.

The reader may remember that early in 1880 arrangements were made by the Government of the North-Western Provinces for the conduct of special experiments at Moradabad with the view of ascertaining in what way masonry wells with a full supply of water could be most economically constructed. The experiments were nearly brought to a close during the year under review; but the reports on them have not yet been submitted. The question, as Sir Alfred Lyall observes, has an important bearing upon the improvement and extension of agriculture, and upon plans for the protection of the North-Western Provinces from drought. Experiments for reclaiming reh infected land by cultivation, drainage and flooding conducted under the superintendence of the North West Department of agriculture had not as yet met with any success. Experiments in glass manufacture were also proceeded with during the year; but the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that it is hardly probable that a few trials, made by officers without much leisure or special skill in the business will lead to any considerable discovery. What has been done so far appears to indicate that only the commoner forms of glass can be manufactured with any prospect of profit. The tobacco farm at Ghazipur has been leased to Messrs. Begg, Sutherland & Co. for 50 years, at an annual rent of Rs. 6,500. The total area under tobacco, we see, increased to 482 acres in the year under report and the produce to 326,000lbs, the rate of produce being 675lbs, per acre, of the quantity produced, 61,000lbs of cured tobacco were shipped to England and realized the high price of 5d. per pound—a most hopeful and encouraging result. The prices realized in India were about 6 annas per pound for Cavendish and one rupee for smoking mixtures, and 8 annas for cheroots and 2 rupees for cigarettes. The present season, 1882-83, promises to yield still more satisfactory results. The use of the steam plough engine, the property of Government, has been offered to the lease-holders of the tobacco farm. Sir Alfred Lyall, with admirable frankness, tells us that the plough itself has not fulfilled the expectations with which it was imported. In accordance with the orders of the Secretary of State, the North-West Agricultural Department is collecting information as to the principal manufactures and handicrafts of the provinces. The Department keeps up a shop at Allahabad for the sale of art manufactures. The Lieutenant-Governor remarks :—"As might be expected, retail sales of this kind have no appreciable effect upon the development of the manufactures, which can only be established on the wholesale markets through regular dealers. Some arrangements are now contemplated for placing these articles in Europe, where it is believed a considerable demand exists." If the North-West Department can do this it will have rendered an important service to the country.

We now come to agricultural experiments. We are told that in the spring of 1881, the average weight of wheat obtained on nine plots under various kinds and quantities of manure in the Cawnpore Experimental Farm was 1,236lbs., while barley on unmanured land yielded 1,840lbs. of grain and on heavily-manured land 3,603lbs. In the crop cut last March, the outturn of wheat averaged 1,590lbs. on the whole area sown, and on one unmanured plot reached 2,662lb. So far so good; but we are unable to see what practical purpose these costly experiments serve. The *Pioneer*, which is an enthusiastic admirer and supporter of the North-West Agricultural Department, has made such sensible and pertinent remarks on the introduction of scientific agriculture in a recent issue, that we wish we could give them *in extenso*. Our contemporary writes :—An expert in English farming, who, in his early days, had in India taken the same practical interest in Indian agriculture, admitted recently that, under favourable conditions the Indian ryot had little or nothing to learn from Cirencester. The opinion may appear old-fashioned to the would-be reformers of Indian agriculture, but to us it carries the weight of twenty years' practical experience in India, and an equal period of practical farming at home. In our severity towards Indian agriculture we are apt to overlook its one great merit. His habit of patient labour, conjoined with the cheapness of labour, stand the Indian ryot in better stead than all the patent manures and steam plough do the English farmer." We need hardly say that we subscribe to every word in the passage we just quoted. We have from the beginning taken this view of the agricultural experiments conducted in our model and experimental farms. These experiments cost a great deal of money and serve no practical purpose. The only improved implement which has met with success is the Bihea Sugar Mill invented by a private firm. A project for an agricultural school in connection with the Department at Cawnpore is under consideration, the scheme submitted by the North-West Government having been sent to the Secretary of State for India. Sir Alfred Lyall in concluding his review of the operations of the Department during 1881-82, tells the Director that "it appears advisable that the introduction of new machinery, and the investment of funds in the establishment of new industries, should be undertaken with much caution." We hope Mr. Benett will understand this broad hint.

AFFAIRS AT BOMBAY.

(From our Special Correspondent).

THE Government of Bombay have announced to the public that the new Local Fund and District Municipal Bills, drafted in pursuance of the scheme of Local Self-Government for this Presidency, have received the approval of His Excellencey the Governor in Council and forwarded to the Government of India for sanction with a view to early prosecution. This announcement only whets the curiosity of the public to know what the Bills are. The drafts of the Bills have not seen the light of day. They seem to have been treated so far as 'confidential papers', though I cannot see any reason for withholding them from the public. They are just the papers which should have been placed on the table in the Editors' Room in the Secretariat. It may perhaps be urged that publicity cannot be given to them until their approval by the Supreme Government. But it would be far more easy for the Government of India to accord their approval to the principles and policy of these Bills or to any legislative measure or withhold their sanction, when the Government have before them all the *pros* and *cons* of the objects of such measures. These *pros* and *cons* can become intelligible more by a public discussion of their merits, than by a covering letter from the Secretary to Government in the Legislative Department. The fact is Government officials necessarily view a measure from their stand-point whereas the public and those affected by it look at it from another point. The Government of India cannot well afford to be committed to the policy of a measure by simply hearing one side of the question as is the case at present. The awkwardness of its position, once that it has accorded its approval on the faith of the representations of a Local Government, becomes at once apparent when it finds that it had not before it all the materials to arrive at a right judgment on the question submitted. Once that its approval has been accorded the Local Government finds it easy to shirk its responsibility. This was clearly illustrated in the late Abkari Amendment Bill, which on submission to the Government of India, had first received its approval, but had to be subsequently vetoed when its merits came to be canvassed in course of the public discussions in and out of the Legislative Council, which followed on the introduction of the Bill into the Council. Sir James Fergusson, it will be remembered, founded an argument on this approval by the Government of India when the draft Bill was first submitted before its introduction into the Council. To prevent the Supreme Government being placed in an anomalous position the course most expedient in the interests of the Government and the public would be to give publicity to it at the time a draft Bill is ready for submission to the Government of India. This publication leads to a thorough sifting of its merits from all sides and enables the Government of India to form a correct judgment as to how far it should accord its approval or withhold its assent to the measure.

The Government of India having thus been taught by recent events how to avoid being committed to a measure have naturally thought proper to put themselves right with the Local Government and with the public in general in regard to legislative projects. Their Resolution on the publicity of Bills of the Legislature in extension of the Resolution of September last, comes not a day too sudden. It shows that the Supreme Government have got at the real kernel of the difficulty. It is not merely in the matter of the publication of legislative measures that the public interests are inconvenienced, and suffer. The class of legislation which causes the greatest injustice to the people is that which appears in the form of rules, regulations or notifications having the force of law, and issued by the executive authorities by virtue of powers conferred upon them under the provisions of some Act of the legislature. The Government seem to have grasped the real difficulty when, in this new Resolution, they observe that in regard to these rules it appears to the Governor-General in Council doubtful whether sufficient efforts are in all cases made at present to elicit an expression of public opinion before they are brought into force, and some measure seems to be required whereby greater publicity may be given to the drafts of such rules. The complaint in regard to rules framed under Acts of the Legislature, without the public being allowed any voice in the matter has been an old one and made times out of number in fact almost every time that a legislative measure is being passed through its successive stages in the Local Council. But it was reserved for Lord Ripon's Government to remedy the evil.

The publication of this Resolution of the Supreme Government had led many here to suppose that the Local Government would no longer see the necessity of postponing the publication of the Local Self Government Bills. But public curiosity on the subject has not yet been satisfied.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Government of India has acceded to the proposal of the Government of Bengal for the appointment of a Central Board of Control for the supervision of Local Boards. We have not however heard whether it will be a purely official bureau or there will be an admixture of the non-official element in it.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S Council for making laws re-opened on Friday last. The Hon'ble Mr. Ilbert made a very important speech on the subject of the publication of legislative measures. He thus began :

It was doubtless in the remembrance of those present that in the course of one of the debates which took place in the early part of this year, Mr. Powden, who bade them farewell at the last meeting, and whose absence they all regretted to-day, called attention to the inadequacy of the existing arrangements for the publication of Bills brought into Council. His remarks were taken up by the Press and gave occasion to the publication of some interesting suggestions articles and letters in the newspapers; amongst which he might be permitted to mention an article in the *Hindoo Patriot* of February the 13th last, and a letter written by a native correspondent to the *Pioneer* on February the 25th. The subject was not overlooked by the Government of India, and on his arrival at Simla at the end of April he found that the subject was under the consideration of the Legislative Department. At that time the legislative machinery of this country was entirely new to him, and he was anxious in this, as in other matters, to gain some practical knowledge of the working of the system before committing himself to proposals for its amendment. Accordingly he pleaded guilty to being personally responsible for any delay which had occurred in taking action on the subject. The

most important conclusions at which the Government of India ultimately arrived were embodied in a circular letter from the Secretary to the Legislative Department which was issued on the 8th September last, and to which the widest publicity had been given.

Mr. Ilbert went into details shewing the nature of the amendments proposed, which we will notice hereafter. His speech was conceived in a liberal and enlightened spirit.

AT LAST SATURDAY'S sitting of the Bengal Council Mr. Reynolds presented the report on the Excise Bill, Mr. Dampier moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Partition Act, Mr. Reynolds a Bill to amend the Mofussil Municipalities Act, and Mr. Macaulay a Bill for registration of hill-coolies. In introducing the Municipalities Bill Mr. Reynolds gave a brief outline of the general features of the measure, and said that the Government would do its part by enacting the reform but that its success would depend upon the people themselves.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a copy of a memorial of certain merchants, tradesmen and others to His Excellency the Viceroy representing the hardships experienced by poor suitors in the Calcutta Small Cause Court in consequence of the exclusion of Mukhtears from the privilege of holding special and general powers of attorneys from parties. The memorialists have made out a good case, and we hope their prayer will receive due consideration from Government.

WHEN Mr. Grant Duff came out to this country as Governor of Madras high expectations were raised in the Indian mind. He is a highly intellectual man, and as he had been Under-Secretary of State for India it was thought that his experience of Indian affairs would give him special advantage in his new position. But he has been in Madras for more than two years, and his administration has proved a sad disappointment. He is said to be entirely in the hands of his civilian advisers. He writes long and sometimes sparkling minutes, but he evidently lacks the metal of a practical administrator. He has bungled in both the Chingleput and Salem Riots cases. Lately he has given a proof of bad temper and illiberal feeling, which we least expected from him. The *Madras Times* had published *in extenso* a minute of the Governor regarding his tour in July last. The editor was called upon to explain how he allowed himself to publish the minute and he replied as follows:

"I beg to point out that your expression, 'how he allowed himself to publish,' implies some impropriety in the act. This I most respectfully but firmly beg to repudiate: for I am not aware of any law of morality, propriety or courtesy, which prevents an editor from presenting to the public a paper (1) which was highly interesting, yet which contained no important State secret, (2) which publication was in no way calculated to embarrass the Government, (3) whose contents were already widely known among officials, (4) which, the public will agree with the press, ought certainly to have been communicated to the latter, (5) and of which a portion had already been published in the *Madras Mail* four days before, and copied by other papers."

This explanation did not satisfy the Governor, who has passed the following order on the subject:

"Order dated 1st December 1882. No. 1499. Public.

"In its issue of Tuesday, November 7th instant, the *Madras Times* Newspaper published at length the Minute recorded by His Excellency the Governor relating to his tour undertaken in July last, a confidential document which, as the Editor must have been well aware when the paper came to his hands, had not been placed by the Government at the disposal of the Press.

"In reply to the enquiry made on the subject, the Editor expresses no regret for his conduct, but, on the contrary, takes credit to himself for having given publicity to a paper which he had irregularly obtained, refusing at the same time to explain how he became possessed of the same.

"3. In the circumstances the only course open to Government is to give effect to G. O., dated 30th November 1865, on the subject, and to direct the removal of the *Madras Times* from the list of newspapers to which papers placed at the disposal of the Press are supplied.

"4. Heads of Department will cease to utilize the paper in question for the publication of their advertisements.

We are simply astounded to read the above order. What unpardonable offence did the editor of the *Madras Times* commit by publishing a minute of general interest, which did not contain any political secret, and the publication of which was not calculated to cause any political excitement among the people? Then why should it be considered censurable to publish a whole minute and unobjectionable to publish portions of it? Further, if the editor was open to punishment for his grave indiscretion, why should he be deprived of official news, which are intended for the public and not for his private use? We do hope that the Secretary of State will take notice of this eccentricity of the Madras Government. Will no public-spirited M. P. put a question to the Secretary of State in Parliament on the subject?

AS WE had expected the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Weston has been given to a Civilian. Mr. C. B. Garrett C. S. is appointed to be Judge of the Principal Courts of Small Causes in Nuddea and Jessore, and Judge of the Small Cause Courts at Krishnaghur, Ranaghat, and Meherpore. This is of course a paper appointment, the effect of which will be that Mr. Garrett will draw the full salary of the office, viz., Rs. 1,500 a month, and that the officiating incumbent will draw we believe Rs. 1340. The officiating appointment we hear will be offered to Moulavi Mohujjum Hossein.

We believe in making this arrangement the Government has proceeded upon the fact that this appointment has not been held by uncovenanted officers exclusively. Civilian officers have from time to time been appointed Judges of the Mofussil Small Cause Courts such as Dr. Field, Mr. Henry Bell, Mr. Towers, Mr. Geddes, and Mr. Cotton. This is true, but when the Small Cause Courts in the Mofussil were first established it was intended that uncovenanted officers should be appointed to them. The first Judges of the Principal Small Cause Courts in the Mofussil were uncovenanted officers, though barristers; Mr. Ninian Thompson and Mr. Dale were the first principal Judges. The offices in question are looked upon as prize appointments by the uncovenanted judicial service, and as the policy of the present Government is to advance competent natives to the higher offices of the State, it is strange that an appointment for which they are peculiarly qualified should be snatched away from them. If it be urged that when the Native District Judge does not draw more than Rs. 1,200, it is anomalous that an uncovenanted Small Cause Court Judge should be allowed to draw Rs. 1,500, a month. But Mr. Weston was an uncovenanted officer, and he did draw Rs. 1,500 a month. The officiating incumbent now to be appointed will also draw more than Rs. 1,200 a month. We cannot but regret that the uncovenanted service is deprived of this prize appointment under the conscientious rule of Mr. Rivers Thompson.

A HORRIBLE TALE of Police oppression comes to us from Pubna. The well known Zemindar of the district, Syud Azimooddeen Hossein Chowdry is said to be the victim of it. The facts placed at our disposal are simply revolting; the statement made to us is necessarily *exparte*, it may or may not be wholly true. We await full particulars duly authenticated. In the meantime we are told that there is something like a reign of terror in Pubna. We would recommend that the Government would be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter.

MR. MACNAUGHTEN of Nischindipore thus writes to the *Englishman*:

My attention has been drawn to a note of Mr. A. Mackenzie on a minute upon the proposed Bengal Rent law by Sir R. Garth. This document has been very freely circulated although Mr. Mackenzie (probably in view of escaping official censure) has had printed at the top of same "not for publication." As the contents of this note (a note, I regret to say, conceived in passion and brought forth in the worst possible taste) have become publicly known, I think it only proper to ask the Government of India, the Bench and Bar of Calcutta, and the public generally, whether the highest judicial authority in the country is to be violently insulted in print by a Government Secretary, because, forsooth, he (the Chief Justice) has, at 'the request of Government, forwarded his views on a certain bill.

I have no doubt that Mr. Mackenzie now regrets that he ever penned this extraordinary note. This regret will be shared by his friends. Mr. Mackenzie tells us "it is true that in the matter of age I cannot rival Sir R. Garth. But upon any Indian question I submit that civilians who have been for 20 years and more studying the people, their customs, and their laws are at least as much entitled to speak as any elderly London lawyer, however eminent, who comes out here with his mind steeped in the traditions of Westminster, and having had neither the time nor the inclination to digest great mass of matter that gathers over every question of Indian land law."

This is tall writing, but it is of a kind we should more reasonably have excepted from an angry "naughty schoolboy" (to whom Mr. Mackenzie compares himself) than from a Secretary to the Government of India. Putting "their laws" on one side, I should very much like to ask Mr. Mackenzie where he has spent his "20 years and more studying the people and their customs." Am I right in thinking that Mr. Mackenzie's rent theories have been worked out in a comfortable chair in a Secretary's office? With these theories moreover Birmingham native air may have had much to do. If my surmises are correct, can we wonder that Mr. Mackenzie's views differ, as black from white, from views of gentlemen like Mr. F. B. Peacock, Mr. J. Munro, and others, who, by practical experience and quiet Mofussil routine, have acquired a thorough knowledge of land tenure in Bengal.

The Note is not a public document, and we are therefore precluded from commenting upon it. We do not however agree with those who seem to think that Mr. Mackenzie was not justified in writing the Note. If his opinions were assailed he was certainly at liberty to vindicate them. His position as Secretary to Government doubtless makes it questionable whether he should indulge in personal attacks, but we believe he has not written the Note in his official capacity. As for the language of the Note it is a matter of taste. We confess we do not object to hard hitting; we are always ready to give and take; and on that principle we are inclined to think our doughty Chief Justice would be the last person to take exception to mere language. His Lordship is strong enough to maintain his position, and the unprejudiced public are at one with him on the subject. What we object to is the "private circulation" of the Note. It is a stab in the dark. If Mr. Mackenzie wished to answer the Chief Justice, why did he not come forward publicly? Let there be fair fight by all means, and the public will be an impartial judge of such a fight. But we do not like underhand business.

MR. O'DONNELL thus called the attention of the House of Commons to the supersession of Mr. B. L. Gupta in the appointment of Senior Magistrate of Calcutta:

Mr O Donnell asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been called to the fact that on the departure of Mr. Marsden, Chief Magistrate of Calcutta, on leave of absence, Mr. B. L. Gupta, the Magistrate next in rank, was, not appointed to act in Mr. Marsden's absence, but was passed over in favor of an English Barrister, Mr. Henderson; whether it was true that Mr. B. L. Gupta was called to the Bar in 1871, was a civilian of eleven years standing, and had been Presidency Magistrate for more than two years; whether it was true that Mr. Henderson was only called to the Bar in 1876, and was never in Government service; and whether this appointment was in conformity with the Government undertaking towards the Native Indian Civil Servants of the Crown. The Marquis of Hartington replied:—"My attention has been called by the question of the Hon. Member to this appointment. The positions of Mr. Gupta and Mr. Henderson appear to be accurately stated in the question; but I have no information as to the circumstances under which the appointment was made, and I have no reason to suppose that in making it any injury to the Native Indian Civil Servants of the Crown was either done or intended to be done. The appointment is one not of a class to which members of the Covenanted Civil Service have any special claim. The vacancy was only for three months, and for such a short period I am informed that there is always a difficulty in providing satisfactorily for carrying on the duties of the office. I have no reason to doubt that the Lieutenant-Governor made the best arrangement he could under the circumstances.

AS WE announced in our last Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur gave an entertainment to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Mrs. and Miss Thompson last Friday evening. The gathering was most respectable. Members of Council, Members of the Board of Revenue, Secretaries to Government, Government House staff, Divisional Commissioners, Magistrates and Collectors and others with a large sprinkling of ladies were present. There were also present some non-official and many of the leading native gentlemen of the town. The house was beautifully illuminated and decorated. The amusements comprised an operatic drama, entitled Sati Adarsa, and orchestra. The audience were pleased with the dramatic performance and music. The affability of the Lieutenant-Governor was conspicuous on the occasion; His Honor mixed freely with the native gentlemen present. Mrs. and Miss Thompson were taken into the zenana where they were adorned with garlands as tokens of respect and esteem. The company took great interest in a picture of Mr. Thompson done by a native artist, which adorns the drawing-room of the Maharaja. A standing supper was provided. The Maharaja was unceasing in his attention. Social reunions of this kind we have always been of opinion are of the highest value. They tend to bring the representatives of the two races into pleasant contact and harmony. We wish such reunions were more frequent.

IN CONNECTION with the Excise Bill now before the Bengal Council the question of the inclusion

of fresh date juice as an excisable article was raised at the first meeting of the Council in the following terms :

The Hon. Kristodas Pal said he rose to support the motion, and in doing so he desired to express his hope that the definition of "tari" would be based on a correct understanding of the article as used by the people of this country. The definition, as it obtained in Act VII of 1878, declared that "fermented liquor" included "tari, fresh or fermented." The words used shewed that the definition was very inconsistent; it was, in fact, a contradiction of terms; "fermented" was defined to be fresh or unfermented. The word "tari" really meant the fermented juice of the palm or the date-tree; but fresh juice of the palm or the date was not "tari." But as the word "fresh" was used in the Act, the Board of Revenue in a circular (Board's Rules of 1878, vol. I, page 349) has declared that tari means "the juice of the date-tree or of the tal or palm-tree, and is used either when freshly drawn or after fermentation." The object of the Excise Act is to tax intoxicating articles, but fresh date juice or fresh palm-juice is not intoxicating, as any one acquainted with the circumstances of the country pretty well knew. But under the operation of the Board's rule, which was derived from the definition of "tari" in the Act, considerable abuse and hardship were committed. The honorable mover had referred to a petition from Eastern Bengal from which, with the permission of the Council, Baboo Kristodas Pal would read the following extract. It was a petition from the East Bengal Landholders' Association, which stated as follows:—

"That the Board of Revenue has defined tari (Board's Rules, 1878, vol. 1, page 349) to be the juice of the date-tree or of the tal or palmtree, and is used either when freshly drawn from the tree or after fermentation." Your memorialists humbly submit that the first part of this definition is contrary to the language of the country. The word 'tari' is always understood to mean the fermented juice of the tal or of the date-tree, and it is the former that is chiefly used for intoxicating purposes or for leavening bread. The juice of the date-tree, either in the fresh or partially boiled state, is always called khajur ras, and is invariably used either as a cooling drink or for manufacturing gur, or as a substitute for gur in the preparation of puddings or sweetmeats. This khajur ras has no intoxicating power and is never used for intoxicating purposes.

That since the last few years villagers possessing date-trees and using the juice for preparing gur, or as a substitute for gur in the partially boiled state, have been subject to a good deal of oppression. Fines of Rs. 25, Rs. 30, or even Rs. 40 have been imposed on people for having a few date-trees round their homesteads without a license. Your humble memorialists have been greatly pained to hear that very large sums have been realised in the shape of such fines from all the districts in this division. As an incentive to policemen and informers for detecting people dealing in khajur ras without a license, large rewards are given to them out of the fines realised. It is easy to see how wide a door is thus opened to extortion and oppression. For each case sent up there must be a considerable number in which poor ryots are obliged to pay hush-money to policemen and informers on the mere threat of being prosecuted."

Baboo Kristodas Pal believed the Government had made some enquiries into the truth of the statements contained in that petition, and his honorable friend was doubtless in possession of the facts which the enquiry had elicited But it appeared from the last report of the Board of Revenue that the statements of the petitioners were greatly borne out by official records. The chapter on "tari" in the Board's last report contained the following paragraph:—

"During the year under review 30,268 licenses were issued for the sale of

Year	Fermented.	Unfermented.	Total.
1880-81	16,504	9,058	25,562
1881-82	16,411	13,857	30,268

tari against 25,562, licenses issued in 1880 81, as shewn in the margin. The increase was chiefly due to the number of additional licenses issued for the sale of unfermented tari in the districts of Dinagepore, Dacca, Backergunge, and Tipperah, owing to the exertions of the local excise officers in suppressing unlicensed sales."

It might be easily inferred from the foregoing extracts what amount of hardship, trouble, annoyance and loss were inflicted upon the poor people who were engaged in the sale of the fresh juice of the palm or date. Palm-juice, he believed, became fermented in two hours, so practically palm-juice was seldom to be found in an unfermented state But the date-juice generally, as he was informed by competent persons, did not get fermented till twelve hours after it was drawn from the tree. Honorable gentlemen must have seen in Calcutta persons going about with pots of date-juice for sale, and children delighted in drinking it. Surely, if it was intoxicating, their parents would not have allowed them to drink it. It was the poor man's luxury, and he hoped the law would not be tolerated which would deprive the poor man of this country of such a cooling, palatable, and innocent beverage. He would not refer to the policy which had led the Government of India to veto the Bombay Act that sought to tax the use of the mohwa flower; but he submitted it would not be consistent with that policy to bring the fresh or unfermented date-juice under excise taxation. He therefore earnestly hoped that the Select Committee would take this matter into consideration.

There are many articles, which when fresh are used as food, but which when fermented have intoxicating effect. Take for instance, the sugarcane juice, the milk of the cocoanut, sugar when mixed with water, rice, potato, and the like, but are these articles treated as excisable articles when taken as food? Only the other day the Viceroy vetoed the Bombay Excise Bill, because it proposed to tax the mhowa flower when used as food. Surely the principle which applies to Bombay applies *pro tantv* to Bengal.

APROPOS of the above we give below a specimen of the license granted for the sale of fresh date juice :

Be it known to all concerned that the person abovenamed is hereby authorized by the undersigned Collector of the above named district to sell fresh tari under the provisions of Sec, 36 Act XII of 1878 during the months of from 6th November 1882 to 31st March 1883. This license does not authorize the holder to sell tari in its fermented state. By doing so without taking out a separate license, the holder will render himself liable to the penalty prescribed by Act XII of 1878 for selling fermanted liquars without a license.

The distinction drawn is broad enough. The object of the Excise Act is to check the consumption of fermented liquor, but it is admitted in the license that fresh date juice is not fermented. The objection that it is difficult to make practically a distinction between fresh and fermented date juice is wholly groundless, for the form of the license we give above shews that practically a distinction is made and insisted upon by the Excise Department.

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY held a grand anniversary meeting at Bombay. The Framji Cowasji Hall, in which the Society met, we are told, was filled with a large audience and decorated with nearly forty shields bearing the names of the various branches of the Society scattered over India from Simla to Ceylon, and from Bombay to Calcutta. On the platform were assembled about twenty delegates from as many of these branches, who had come specially to attend the meeting from all parts of the country. Mr. Sinnett, editor of the *Pioneer*, and President of the Simla Eclectic Theosophical Society took the chair. He made an able and interesting speech remarkable for breadth of view and catholicity of feeling. Babu Norendranath Sen, editor of the *Indian Mirror*, was present at the meeting and delivered an eloquent address covering many important points. Several other delegates also addressed the meeting. Colonel Olcott then gave a brief summary of the working of the Society. He referred to the practical steps taken by the Theosophical Society to revive the ancient literature of India. He also spoke of the Sanskrit schools established by him in Ceylon Bareilly, Guntoor, and other places. "Many of the theosophists were engaged in studying mesmerism, and Shree Hunsraj of Kathiawad, having learnt this science, had effected a number of cures. At London some of their prominent members had united themselves with men like Professor Balfour Stewart and Henry Sedgwick for the purpose of making investigations into matters which were objects of derision with many people. But the Society which had Balfour Stewart in it could not be a society of chimerical dreamers." The Theosophists are rendering an important service to this country, for which we cannot feel too grateful to them. They are awakening in the minds of the educated natives of India reverence for their ancient literature, which cannot be too highly prized.

A CHITTAGONG CORRESPONDENT of the *Statesman* communicates the following case of magisterial oppression :

Since the proceedings of Mr. Kirkwood in connection with the Fenwa cases, and the prosecution of Lal Chand Chowdry, there has not been so much sensation in Chittagong as has been recently caused by the proceedings of the present Magistrate and Collector of the district, regarding the estate of Fazil Ali Khan, a wealthy zemindar, who died about the middle of October last, at a place called Dohazari, about 24 miles from Chittagong. Mr. Manson, the Collector, has hitherto been deservedly popular in Chittagong, and has been known to be a considerate and conscientious officer, but his implicit confidence in the integrity of his subordinates appears to have led him to sanction and support proceedings, calculated to damage considerably the reputation which he has hitherto enjoyed as a discreet officer.

Immediately on the death of Fazil Ali Khan at Dohazari, the manager of the Court of Wards, Baboo Kailash Chunder Dass, appears to have suggested to Mr. Manson that the estate should be taken charge of by the Court of Wards, and the widow of Fazil Ali declared disqualified to manage her property. Without any enquiry into the matter, and instead of personally proceeding to take charge of the very large amount of cash and other valuables left by Fazil Ali, Mr. Manson appears to have directed the local police to take charge of the movables or to look after them, and ordered the manager of the Court of Wards to take charge of the property, pending the sanction of the Board of Revenue. Fazil Ali's widow (who, under her husband's will, claims to be the manager of the property and guardian of her minor son,) declares that, within two or three days of her husband's death, the police forcibly took her keys and confined her in a room; and that afterwards certain mohurirs under the Court of Wards came to her house, counted all the silver in her absence, without calling in any respectable neighbours to be present, and that the cash actually reported by them as found—*i.e.* Rs. 94,000 (ninety-four thousand)—is much less than what her husband had left, which she alleges was about two lakhs. The manager of the Court of Wards left the village of Dohazari about the 26th of October, leaving the house in charge of his mohurirs and the police. The widow of Fazil Ali, considering herself aggrieved by the conduct of the police and the manager, sent for a pleader of the Judge's Court, Baboo Purna Chunder Dutt, for legal advice, and this gentleman went to see the lady on the 1st November last, accompanied by Baboo Tarun Singh Hazari, a neighbouring zemindar, whose advice and help the lady had also sought. When the pleader and Tarun Singh were about to talk to the lady, one of the mohurirs under the Court of Wards objected to the interview and the pleader thereupon demanded his authority for so doing The mohurir refused to produce any authority, and insisted upon the pleader and Tarun Singh going away. The pleader thereupon left the place, threatening to report the matter to higher authority, and Tarun Singh followed his example. The mohurir immediately sent a letter to the manager, Baboo Kailash Chunder Dass, in which he stated that he had turned out of the house the two visitors who had trespassed into the house for the purpose of speaking to the lady, and that as they had threatened him, there might be some fuss hereafter. This letter is silent as to what was the nature of the threat, nor does it appear that Chunder Mohun ever complained to any of the police inspectors who were on the spot about the threat. A copy of this letter was laid by the manager before Mr. Manson, the Collector, who, without any enquiry, and presumably at the suggestion of the manager, immediately instituted a criminal prosecution, and passed the following order:—

"The case is taken up under section 448 (housetrespass) and section 503 (criminal intimidation), and any other sections which may be applicable, against Tarun Singh Hazari and Purna Chunder Dutt made over to Mr. Maguire, Joint-Magistrate, for disposal. If any petition of complaint, &c., relating to this matter, are presented, they must all go to the Joint-Magistrate for disposal."

The case was taken up by Mr. Maguire in the interior, the pleader and Tarun Singh being both summoned as defendants; and after examining all the witnesses for the prosecution, Mr. Maguire was obliged to discharge the pleader, as the evidence did not disclose that he had done anything wrong and improper, much less criminal. The pleader had thus to undergo the idignity of a criminal prosecution for no other fault than attempting to visit a client at her own request—a fact which was proved by the evidence of the lady herself. The prosecution not having been instituted by the mohurir, but by the Magistrate of the district, without any grounds whatsoever, the unfortunate pleader, it is said, cannot obtain any sort of reparation for the injury done to him, but must content himself with a memorial to the Government, which, having regard to its traditions, will be bound to support its own officials. The zemindar (Tarun Singh), however, has not got off so easily as the pleader, for the mohurir, Chunder Mohun, has sworn that Tarun Singh when asked to leave the place uttered some words like these: "What will happen to me if I beat a ten-rupees mohurir like you?" And Mr. Maguire has, upon the strength of this statement, framed a charge of criminal intimidation against Tarun Singh, and, after several postponements, has adjourned this trumpery case till next week.

Comments on the above are superfluous. We make no doubt that the Government will make a full enquiry into the matter.

WE THANK Mr. Antram for a copy of a diary-book of the Positive Government Life Assurance Company limited. It is beautifully got up, and will make a good table ornament.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 16th December 1882.

Since our last report there has been no change whatever in commercial affairs, dullness continued to prevail over the markets restricting operations within narrow limits.

In Piece-Goods nothing of importance has transpired only limited transactions in greys and other descriptions took place, but at easier rates.

Yarns—both import and country manufactures experienced difficulty to find buyers, prices in consequence have been drooping.

Export—except the weekly sales of Tea and Indigo nothing of interest has transpired at the public sale of Tea held on the 14th instant, 5650 chests were offered, but 5572 found buyers—prices were firm for all finer classes, common Souchongs and Tannings realised fully previous rates.

Indigo—there were four sales and about 4000 chests have been disposed of at prices much below those of last year.

Jute—continued to find buyers owing to its prices being very low but the stock is still very large. Within one week two jute presses have been burnt down—the Strand Bank and Chitpore Hydraulic, the cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained.

Nothing of importance has transpired either in Oil-seeds or Grain.

MONETARY.

There has been no change in the rates of interest or discount at the Bank of Bengal, but the bazar rates interest and discount of Hoondees have somewhat advanced.

In Government Securities—nothing of interest has taken place—prices have rather been affected by messages of decline of the enfaced paper at the London market and were at the close as follows viz :—

4 per cent.	...	99-14
4½ „ „	...	105-4 at 105-5

Joint-Stock Shares—this market has rather been quiet: A few sales in Press and Jute Shares.

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*December* 13, 1882.

GENERAL—6th Dec—Mr C H Vowell, Jt-Magte and Depy Colr, Patna, to act as Magte and Colr of that dist, during the absence, on deputn, of Mr C T Metcalfe, CSI.

Mr A C Mackertich, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Chittagong Hill Tracts, is transfd to Chittagong, and is appid to have charge of the Cox's Bazar Divn of that dist.

Mr W F C Montriou, Offg Depy Magte and Depy colr, in charge of the Sungoo Divn of the Chittagong Hill Tracts dist, is transfd to the sudder station of that dist.

Mr H W Barber, Depy Magte and Depy colr, Noakholly, is transfd to the Chittagong Hill Tracts dist, and to have charge of the Sungoo Divn of that dist.

Baboo Shamapodo Chowdhry, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Jessore, is transfd to Hazareebagh, and is posted to the sudder station of that dist.

Moulvi Najimuddeen Ahmed, Tempy Sub-Depy Colr is posted to the sudder station of the dist of Bhagulpore.

Mr H Thompson, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Tipperah, returned to duty on forenoon of 4th Dec, 1882.

Moulvie Ikram Russool, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Chittagong, leave for eighteen days, in extension of leave granted 11th Oct last.

Baboo Rash Behary Dutt, Tempy Sub-Depy Colr, Poorneah, is transfd to the dist of the Sonthal Perghs, and is posted to Deoghur, with effect from the date on which he joined the latter dist.

Baboo Gossain Das Hazra tempy to be a Sub-Depy Colr, 2nd gde, at Bhagulpore, vice Moulvie Abdul Majid, on deputn.

Baboo Lolit Kumar Das temply to be a Special Depy Colr for employment on work connected with the partition of the Birmohun estate in Furreedpore.

Baboo Soshi Kumar Dutt temply to be a special Depy Colr, for employment on Butwara work in Mymensing.

Baboo Bepinbehary Paramanick, Sub-Depy Colr, Seetamurhee, Mozufferpore, temply to be a Sub-Depy Colr, 1st gde vice Moulvi Mohamed Ul-Nobi.

Munshi Mahomed Ghossi, Special Sub-Dy colr Durbhanga, temply to be a Sub-Depy Colr, 2nd gde, in the Patna Divn, vice Baboo Bepinbehary Paramanick.

Mr A S Womack, who has recently been apptd to be a member of the Bengal civil Service, and who reported his arrival on the 5th inst, to be an Asst Magte and colr in the Bhagulpore Divn, and is posted to the sudder station of Bhagulpore.

POLICE—9th Dec—Mr R F H Pughe, Offg Dist Superdt of Police chittagong Hill Tracts, to be Dist Superdt of Police, Darjeeling, from date he joined the latter apptmt.

Baboo Nobo Kisore Pal, 3rd gde Inspr of Police, Mymensing, is promtd to the 2nd gde from 26th Sept, 1882, vice Baboo Prosonocoomar Bose, dead.

Mr W D Abercrombie, Asst Superdt of Police in charge of the Dist Police, Darjeeling, to be Asst Superdt of Police, Sarun.

Mr A S Jude, Asst Superdt of Police, is posted to Serajgunge in Pabna.

Mr C M Wintle, Offg Asst Superdt of Police, Serampore, Hooghly, is transfd to Furreedpore.

Mr G W S Cox, Asst Superdt of Police, Serampore Hooghly, is transfd to Moorshedabad.

Mr G B Havelock, Asst Superdt of Police, acted as Dist Superdt of Police, Manbhoom, from forenoon of 16th Oct to afternoon of 17th Nov, 1882.

Mr G D Havelock, Asst Superdt of Police, is posted to Serampore, in Hooghly, from date he joined has apptmt.

Advertisements.

IMMEDIATELY WANTED.

A native manager for a tea garden in the Darjeeling Terai. Apply with copies of testimonials to

The Honorary Secretary Hindoo Tea Company Limited, Darjeeling,

WANTED.

For Nagpur and Chhattisgarh State Railway a Competent Substore-keeper 2nd grade Salary Rupees 80 rising to Rupees 120 by annual increment of Rupees 8. Preference will be given to those who have had experence of State Railway store accounts and ordinary departmental works. Apply to Store-keeper of the line with copies of testimonials (not to be returned) before the 15th January 1883.

Rejected applications will not be answered.

NURSING CHUNDER MOOKERJI,
Actlng Store-keeper,
Nagpur and Chhattisgarh State Railway.

CALCUTTA AND SOUTH EASTERN STATE RAILWAY.

The further Extension of the Calcutta and South Eastern State Railway to Mugra Hat will be opened to coaching and Goods traffic on and from the 18th current. For particulars see Time and Rate table.

R. G. MOOKERJEE,
Manager.

Manager's Office, No. 3, Sealdah,
The 13th December 1882.

KISSENGUNGE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

There will be an Agricultural Exhibition and a general fair at Kissengunge in the District of Purneah under the patronage of the Collector of the District. The exhibition will commence on the 15th of January and last for 10 days. Prizes will be given for the District produce of all kinds including plough cattle and ponies and also for ploughing.

Shop-keepers from all parts of the District of Purneah and from other Districts are invited to attend the fair. Sheds at the expense of Exhibition Committee will be provided for them and no tolls on sales will be levied.

GOSSIEN DASS DUTT,
Sub-Divisional Officer, Kissengunge.

A NEW POEM

ENTITLED

"DASAMAHABIDDYA,"

BY THE WELL-KNOWN POET

BABOO HEM CHUNDER BANNERJEA,

Price 10 Annas; Postage Half-anna only.

To be had only at the Stanhope Press, 249, Bow-Bazar Street, Calcutta.

I. C. BOSE & Co.,

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall on Thursday, the 21st of December 1882, at 3 P. M.

Business to be brought forward.

1. The Chairman to submit the names of Commissioners proposed as members of the Assessment Appeal Committee, Law Committee Squares Committee, and Standing Committee for revising the Rules of Procedure and Bye-Laws.

2. To confirm the resolution passed by the Town Council granting the Secretary eight months' leave of absence on medical certificate on an allowance of Rs. 600 a month.

3. To sanction, under section 36 of the Muncipal Act, the Chairman's appointment of Mr. C. Cooper as Superintendent of Roads and Conservancy, vice Babu Mahatap Chand Mullick.

4. Mr. A. D. Larymore to move that, as the room now used for Meetings is small and ill-adapted to its purpose, it be a direction to the Chairman to hold all Quarterly and Special General Meetings in the central hall.

5. To consider the report of the scheme for improving Jora Bagan Bustee.

6. To confirm the proceedings of the Water Supply Extension Committee at Meetings held on the 20th September, 28th November, and 7th December.

7. To confirm the proceedings of the Tramway and Telephone Committee at a meeting held on the 30th of November.

8. Letter from the Commissioner of Police, submitting Budget estimate of the Calcutta Police for the year 1883 84 for consideration under section 163 of the Act.

9. To confirm generally the proceedings of the Town Council at Meetings held on the 25th November, 2nd and 9th December.

10. Vital Statistics for the month of October.

At the close of the Special General Meeting, a Special Meeting will be held.

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1. To cancel the old license of the amalgamated Jute Warehouse Nos. 2-2-1, and 2-2-2, Ramkanto Bose's Street and 178, Upper Chitpore Road, for non-payment of fee under section 9 of Act V of 1879.

2. To grant separate licenses for the above premises under Act V of 1879.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

THE ANNUAL

GRAND FANCY FAIR.

Organised by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in aid of Calcutta Charities

will be held at the

Zoological Gardens

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General,
His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
The Honourable the Chief Justice,

ON

NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1883, AND THE FOLLOWING DAY.

Through the kindness of the Commandants and other Officers of the Royal Warwickshire and 17th N. I. Regiments, the Bands of those Regiments will play at the Fair.

Refreshments by Messrs. Broad and McKinnell ; for Native gentlemen by Brahmins.

Merry-go-rounds, Aunt Sallies, Hippodromes, Boat-Swings, Shooting Gallery, Wheels of Fortune, and other entertainments.

Admission to the Fair—One Rupee.

For Children, and Soldiers in uniform, with their families—half-price.

Stalls will be provided gratis for Charitable Institutions only on application by letter to Mr. M. A. Mendes, 166, Dhurrumtollah Street.

The best Medicine for India.

"OLD DR. JACOB TOWNSEND'S"

SARSAPARILLA.

THE BLOOD PURIFIER.

This extraordinary medicine has a singular influence over the blood, which it enriches and purifies. It removes all pimples and blotches, cures indigestion, with its thousand phases of suffering, strengthens the debilitated frame, enervated by residence in hot climates, builds up the broken constitution, and in fact acts like a charm. As a sustaining, purifying tonic it is invaluable, and highly recommended in long standing cases of indigestion, nervousness, coughs, scrofula, gout, dropsy, and wasting of flesh. G. C. Kernott, M.D, L.S.A., London, says:—"I strongly recommend it in cutaneous diseases and all impurities of the blood. I have been in the habit of ordering your Sarsaparilla for my patients with the best results. Send me six quarts and six mammoth bottles." CAUTION.—*Get the red and blue wrapper, with the Doctor's head in the centre.* No other genuine. In bottles—2s 6d, 4s. 6d., 7s. 6d., and 11s. Chief Depot, 131, Fleet Street, London.

Sold in India as follows:—

Calcutta	BATHGATE & Co.
"	SMITH STANISTREET & Co
Lahore	GILLON & Co.
Rangoon	MEDICAL HALL.
Madras	BARRY & Co.
Bombay &c.	TREACHER & Co.
Cochid (Malabar)	PEREIRA & Co.

And at all Drug Stores.

CALCUTTA SHAWL-WASHING AND REPAIRING ESTABLISHMENT.

For Sale at less than Bazar price a large variety of Pereprose shawls Second Hand Purmuthan Palladar and Dourdar pairs of rare beauty and excellence. Intending purchasers are requested to call at the rooms of the undersigned or to send orders which will receive prompt attention.

BROJO NAUTH MOOKERJEA.
Calcutta, 45 Chassadhobapara Street.

NOTICE.

Required for the Northern Bengal State Railway, a thoroughly competent Surveyor, able to Level and plot work neatly and rapidly, must speak and write English. Salary up to Rs. 75 according to qualifications also horse allowance. Testimonials to be sent to Manager, Northern Bengal State Railway, Saidpur.

NOTICE.

Sealed tenders for the supply of the under-mentioned stores to the Tirhoot State Railway during the year ending 31st December 1883 will be received by the Manager at this office, Mozuffurpore, up to the 15th December 1882.

2. No tenders will be received except on forms obtainable from the Store-keeper's Office at Somastipore which as well as any information regarding the contract, will be furnished on application to the Store-keeper.

3. Covers to be superscribed "Tenders for Stores 1883."

4. The lowest or any tender need not necessarily be accepted by the Manager who reserves to himself the right of declining to give any explanation for his decision.

5. Tenders may specify the whole or be in part of the requirements quoted, and the successful tenderer will be required to deposit in the hands of the Examiner of Accounts, Tirhoot State Railway, cash security to the extent of 5 per cent on the total amount of his contract.

Castor Oil (1st quality)	7,200	Gallons.
Cotton Waste (best quality)	60	Cwt.
Jute cleanings (best quality)	24	,,
Jute undressed Country (best quality)	120	,,
Jute dressed Country (best quality)	6	,,
Tallow Country in casks	24	,,

By Order,
G. J. SHIRMAN,
Store-keeper,
Tirhoot and Patna Gya State Railway.

Somastipore,
Store-keeper's Office,
Dated 25th November 1882.

পদ্যমালা—২য় ভাগ।

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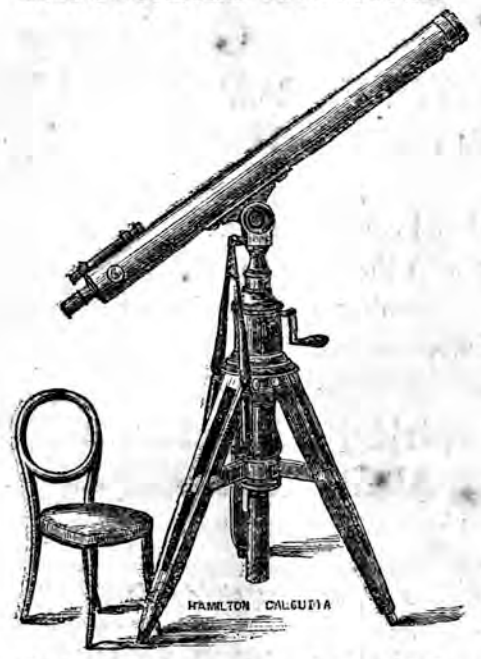

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